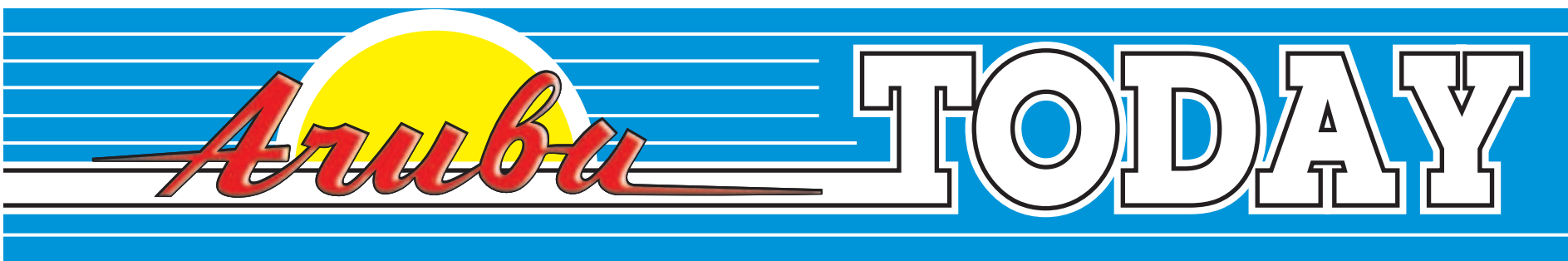




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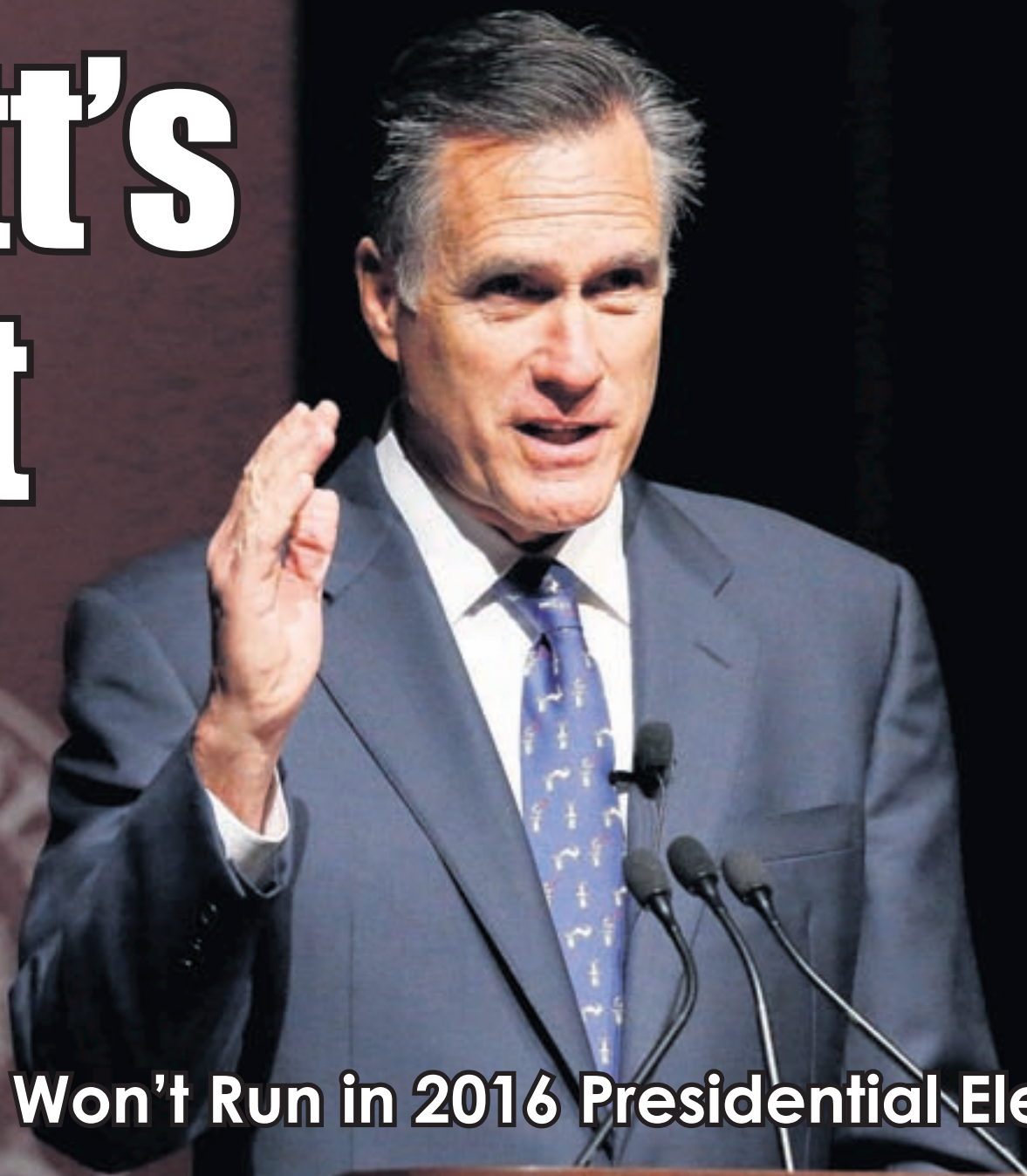
Seattle Seahawks vs. New England Patriots

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, January 31, 2015

Mitt's Out



Romney Won't Run in 2016 Presidential Election

Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney speaks at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss. Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney says he will not run for president in 2016.

JONATHAN MARTIN
MICHAEL BARBARO
© 2015 New York Times
WASHINGTON - Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, told a group of supporters Friday that he would not seek his party's nomination for president in 2016.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, shared his decision on a conference call with a small group of advisers. In a call to a larger group of supporters, Romney said, "After putting considerable thought into making another run for president, I've

decided it is best to give other leaders in the party the opportunity to become our next nominee." Romney said he believed he could win the nomination, but he expressed concern about harming the party's chances to retake the White House.

"I did not want to make it more difficult for someone else to emerge who may have a better chance of becoming the president," he said. He added that it was "unlikely" that he would change his mind. Romney, who did not take questions and ended the

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)
call shortly after reading a prepared statement, said that his family had been gratified by the outpouring of support but had decided that it was best for the Republican Party if he step aside.

Continued on page 5

Obama, Cooper push for media help in better vet portrayal

MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The first lady and “American Sniper” star Bradley Cooper are backing a new challenge to TV and film producers and writers to accurately represent U.S. troops who have returned from war and move away from portraying them either as victims or infallible heroes.

Michelle Obama and Cooper joined a list of media heavyweights Friday in Washington, D.C., to launch the new “6 Certified” program with representatives from Warner Bros., National Geographic Channels and the Producers Guild of America on hand.

The initiative will allow TV shows and films to display an onscreen badge that tells viewers the show they’re watching has been certified by the group Got Your 6, which derives its name from military slang for “I’ve got your back.” To be approved, the film or show must cast a veteran, tell a veteran story, have a story written by a veteran or use veterans as resour-

es.

Chris Marvin, managing director of Got Your 6 and a former U.S. Army officer and Blackhawk helicopter pilot, said their campaign

something in the middle. Veterans are everyday people.

“They’re your next door neighbor who helps you bring your garbage cans



First lady Michelle Obama speaks during the launch event for “Got Your 6,” a multifaceted program that includes encouraging film and television to include characters who are veterans, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, at the National Geographic Society in Washington.
(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

isn’t hoping to show veterans in a good light but in an honest one.

“Most Americans tell us that they only see veterans portrayed as broken or as heroes who walk on water in film and television,” he said by phone. “We’re missing

back when they blow away. They’re your kids’ fifth-grade math teacher. It’s the person running for city council,” he added. “You see them every day in your own life but you don’t see them on film or television.”

The Got Your 6 group was launched in 2012 to enlist Hollywood in the effort to discourage stereotypes and promote more accurate representation of the 2.6 million soldiers coming home over the past 10 years. Surveys have found that many Americans presume veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, are homeless or are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

The group has taken lessons from other successful efforts to change national viewpoints, including increasing gay rights, reducing teen pregnancies, encouraging colonoscopies, improving animal rights and reducing drunken driving. It has identified Hollywood as an engine of cultural change. “This is more of a challenge than anything else. We’re challenging the entertainment industry — myself included — to live up to the responsibilities inherent in the powers we have and with the reach that we have,” said Charlie Ebersol, a producer and creator of the “6 Certified” program. Ebersol said films like 1987’s

“Full Metal Jacket” by Stanley Kubrick and Clint Eastwood’s new “American Sniper” would likely be eligible for certification because they portray veterans accurately, even if the soldiers in those films aren’t representative of the population of veterans.

Mrs. Obama cited TV shows including “Nashville” and “Doc McStuffins” as ones that share stories of “our veterans in new and meaningful ways.” She said telling veterans’ stories honestly makes for “tremendous TV and movies” and “are good for business as well.”

“We hope our country will welcome back our veterans — not by setting them apart but by fully integrating them into the fabric of our communities,” she said. Mrs. Obama also came to the defense of “American Sniper” — about marksman Chris Kyle, considered the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. It has earned Cooper an Oscar nomination but has also weathered a growing storm of criticism that the film glorifies murder and serves as war propaganda. □

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Obama unveils plan to develop tailored medical treatments

ROBERT PEAR

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WASHINGTON - Declaring that "the possibilities are boundless," President Barack Obama on Friday announced a major biomedical research initiative, including plans to collect genetic data on a million Americans so that scientists can develop drugs and treatments tailored to the characteristics of individual patients.

Dr. Francis S. Collins, the director of the National Institutes of Health, said the studies would help doctors decide which treatments would work best for which patients.

White House officials said the "precision medicine initiative," also known as personalized or individualized medicine, would begin with a down payment of \$215 million in the president's budget request for the fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1.

Precision medicine "gives us one of the greatest opportunities for new medical breakthroughs that we have ever seen," Obama said at a White House event attended by patients' advocates, researchers, and drug and biotechnology company executives.

"The time is ripe to unleash a new wave of advances in this area, in precision medicine, just like we did with genetics 25 years ago," Obama said. One study of that earlier effort, he said, found that "every dollar we spent to map the human genome has already returned \$140 to our economy."

The new research initiative, he said, can save lives, create jobs, foster new industries and help people overcome "the accidents and circumstances of our birth." "If we're born with a particular disease, or a particular genetic makeup that makes us more vulnerable



President Barack Obama is introduced by Elana Simon, a Harvard University student and cancer survivor, at a White House event on a new biomedical research initiatives, in Washington, Jan. 30, 2015. Researchers aim to collect genetic data on one million Americans to help in the development of drugs that can be tailored to the needs of individual patients.

(Jabin Botsford/The New York Times)

to something, that's not our destiny, that's not our fate," Obama said. "We can remake it. That's who we are as Americans, and

that's the power of scientific discovery."

Researchers have been collecting and storing human tissue and other bio-

logical specimens since the 1990s in repositories known as biobanks. Describing the president's vision, Jo Handelsman, associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said: "We do not envision this as being a biobank, which would suggest a single repository for all the data or all the samples. There are existing cohorts around the country that have already been started and have rich sources of data. The challenge in this initiative is to link them together and fill in the gaps." Federal officials described the project as a research consortium that would collect information from large numbers of people. The data could include medical records, laboratory test results, profiles of patients' genes, and information about their diet, tobacco use, lifestyle and environment. □



As measles spreads across America, so does anxiety

JULIE TURKEWITZ

DAMIEN CAVE

© 2015 New York Times

The measles outbreak tied to Disneyland continued to spread anxiety Friday as two new cases emerged overnight in Marin County in California - along with at least one in Nebraska - while Arizona officials warned that at least 1,000 people may have been exposed to the virus through seven others in that state. Since Jan. 1, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed 84 measles cases in 14 states. California's health department, which is updating a measles count more frequently, has linked more than 90 cases in the United States and Mexico to the Disneyland outbreak.

Concern about the highly contagious disease intensified Friday in several states, including Minnesota, where health officials are notifying hundreds of people who may have come into contact with a University of Minnesota student with measles.



Pediatrician Charles Goodman, talks with patient Carmen Lopez, 37, holding her 18-month-old son, Daniel after being vaccinated with the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, or MMR at his practice in Northridge, Calif., Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. Some doctors are adamant about not accepting patients who don't believe in vaccinations, with some saying they don't want to be responsible for someone's death from an illness that was preventable. Others warn that refusing treatment to such people will just send them into the arms of quacks.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

There was also anxiety in Arizona, where thousands of people are arriving in Phoenix for the Super Bowl on Sunday. The disease centers are now advising anyone with symptoms not to attend the game.

"The very large outbreaks

we've seen around the world often started with a small number of cases," said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the agency's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases.

Officials in three counties in

the Phoenix area - Maricopa, Gila and Pinal - have already asked residents who have not been vaccinated and who might have been exposed to stay home from school, work or day care for 21 days. Schools in some other states are considering more formal bans on unvaccinated children. "This is a critical point in this outbreak," the Arizona state health director, Will Humble, wrote on his blog. Any missed cases, he wrote, could cause "a long and protracted outbreak." Each case so far has spawned an exhaustive public health response. News sites in Pennsylvania and other states are alerting readers when measles-infected individuals have visited local establishments, an effort to warn residents of exposure. And in places like New Mexico, where the number of unvaccinated children increased 17 percent from

2012 to 2014, health officials are warning that the disease could soon hit.

In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Health said Friday that it is working with the University of Minnesota to manage the case of measles diagnosed in a 20-year-old male university student. It has notified other students who may have been exposed, along with health officials at the hospital where he sought treatment.

"We are going to be watching this situation very closely," the Minnesota commissioner of health, Dr. Edward Ehlinger, said.

Ehlinger emphasized that the potential risk to the general public is very low, but said people should take precautions to protect themselves and their children. In particular, he called on parents to make sure their children have been properly immunized. A spokesman for the state health department, Doug Schultz, said the student had probably contracted the measles on a trip to Indonesia. The student told health authorities that he had received two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, Schultz said, but that it was unclear when he had received his last shot.

The vaccine, Schultz said, is about 95 percent effective, so it is possible for people who are current with their vaccinations to contract the virus. In Minnesota, about 1.6 of people decline to be vaccinated, Schultz said.

In Nebraska, Leah Bucco-White, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said Friday that officials had confirmed two cases of measles in children in the eastern part of the state. □



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Romney won't Run in 2016 Presidential Election

Continued from Front

Romney said he would have no leadership PAC and no exploratory committee.

By not pursuing a third White House bid, Romney frees up scores of donors and operatives who had been awaiting his decision, and creates space for other potential center-right candidates such as Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida.

Romney, 67, had expressed renewed interest in another presidential run to a group of donors earlier this month, roiling the nascent Republican race. Many of his loyal contributors, staff members and supporters had been reluctant to come out for one of his potential rivals until they knew Romney's plans.

But his flirtation had also prompted a fierce back-



Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, second from left, former Mississippi Republican Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck, left, Megan Mullen, wife of Mississippi State football coach Dan Mullen and Dan Mullen, right, talk as they have dinner at Little Dooney, a barbecue restaurant in Starkville, Miss.

(AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

lash across Republican circles, and some of Romney's former aides and donors have begun moving on to other candidates.

In a more than four-hour meeting last week, Romney's top staff members and trusted advisers from 2012 relayed a sobering re-

ality - they supported Romney and thought he would be the best president, but they did not necessarily encourage a third run.

One by one, loyal supporters talked about surveying their troops from 2012, and finding that the enthusiasm and support were just not

there. Some Iowa precinct leaders were not coming back, and even in New Hampshire - where Romney had won the primary - the mood was described at best as "cautiously optimistic." The situation with donors was also going to be an uphill climb.

Word of Romney's decision sent waves through the Republican donor world Friday, as Romney aides began to telegraph the news to donors and other staff members and strategists. Some donors immediately began calling representatives of other potential candidates, such as Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, to discuss offering their support.

Romney's announcement started a day of reckoning with his would-be rivals. He is scheduled to have dinner with Christie on Friday, according to two people with knowledge of his schedule,

suggesting that Romney may be considering throwing his support, and that of his own political operation, to Christie. The two men are friendly, and Christie, along with Bush, was a main rival of Romney for the favor of the Republican establishment.

Bush offered his own warm words for Romney in a post on Facebook on Friday.

"Mitt is a patriot and I join many in hoping his days of serving our nation and our party are not over," Bush wrote. "I look forward to working with him."

At 11 p.m. Thursday, a blast email was sent from a mit-fromromney.com address, alerting supporters about a conference call Friday.

"Please join me for an update call tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. EST, 8:00 a.m. PST," wrote Romney, adding the dial-in information and concluding, "All the best, Mitt." □



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'Suge' Knight arrested in deadly hit-and-run

RAQUEL DILLON
Associated Press
WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP) — Marion "Suge" Knight, the former music mogul who created one of hip-hop's leading labels and became the impresario of gangster rap, was arrested early Friday on suspicion of hitting and killing a man with his truck and then fleeing the crash near Los Angeles.

Knight's attorney said the founder of Death Row Records accidentally ran over and killed a friend and injured another man Thursday as he tried to escape attackers. Witnesses and authorities say an argument between the men escalated into Knight ramming the pair. Authorities said he could face a murder charge.

The 49-year-old Knight, who has a long history of violent crimes, started the label that helped put West Coast rap on the map with the legendary group N.W.A., whose members included Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and Eazy E. The label also launched the career of Snoop Dogg and had Tupac Shakur in the last months of his life.

Many of the records Knight released helped immortalize Compton, the LA-area city where the crash occurred, in hip-hop folklore as a gritty and violent urban environment, although crime there has dipped significantly there since its 1990s peak.

He was arrested around 3 a.m. PST after turning himself in to authorities. He was being held on \$2 mil-

lion bail, said Deputy Trina Schrader of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

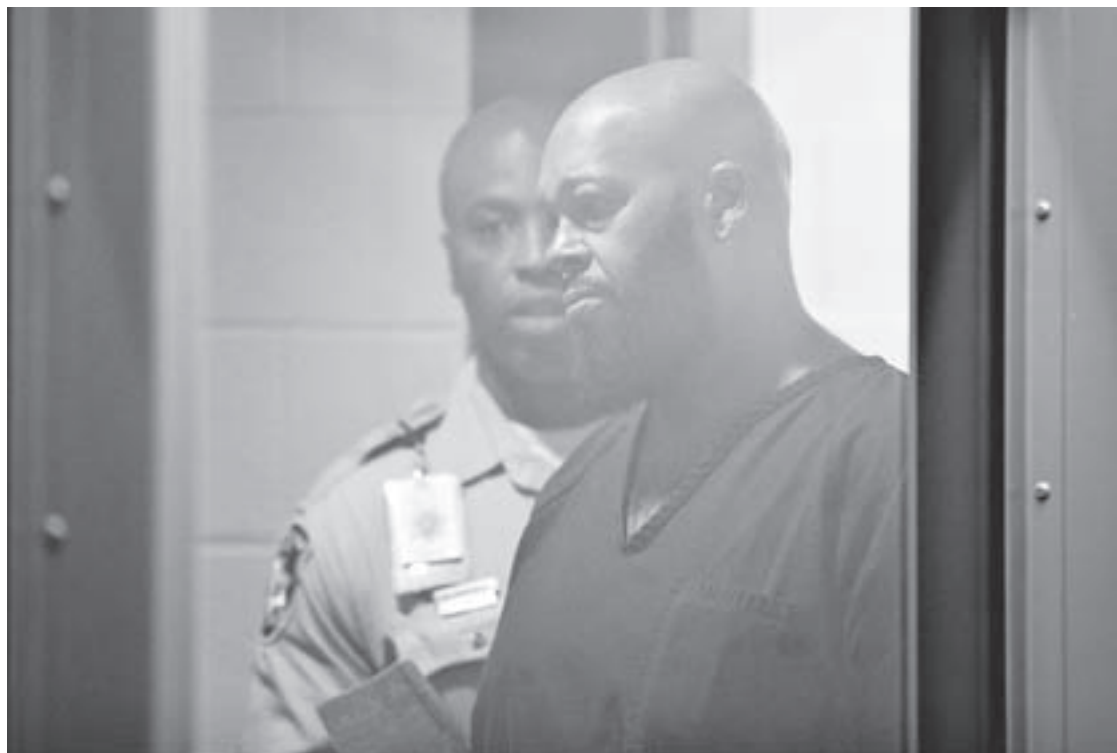
A red pickup truck drove into the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant Thursday afternoon in Compton, and its driver started arguing with two people

authorities did not immediately know his condition. Witnesses also spoke of an argument.

"To see the argument happen, it's one thing," said 17-year-old Robert Smith, who was eating in the restaurant. "Seeing the car incident, that was shocking."

ferent part of town where a music video was being filmed, the lieutenant said. Blatt said Knight's legal team was "confident that once the investigation is completed, he will be totally exonerated."

Knight founded Death Row Records in the 1990s but



Rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight appears in court in Las Vegas following his arrest in a robbery case. A lawyer for Knight says the Death Row Records founder was at the wheel of a car that struck two men, killing one, in a Los Angeles suburb. The accident in Compton occurred shortly before 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. (AP Photo/John Locher)

there, sheriff's officials said. The argument escalated, and the pickup struck the men around 3 p.m. and then took off, authorities said.

"Looks like he drove backwards and struck the victims and drove forwards and struck them again," sheriff's Lt. John Corina said. "The people we talked to say it looked like it was an intentional act."

A 55-year-old man died at a hospital, and a 51-year-old man was injured, but

Knight's attorney, James Blatt, said the crash was an accident.

"He was in the process of being physically assaulted by two men, and in an effort to escape, he unfortunately hit two (other) individuals," the lawyer said. "He was in his car trying to escape."

The empty truck was found late Thursday in a West Los Angeles parking lot, Corina said. Knight was seen driving a red pickup truck 20 minutes earlier in a dif-

ferent part of town where a music video was being filmed, the lieutenant said.

His lengthy history of run-ins with the law goes back to the early 1990s and includes assaults and weapons offenses. In November, he pleaded not guilty to a robbery charge filed over an incident in which a celebrity photographer accused him of stealing her camera in Beverly Hills. Because of prior convictions, he could face up to 30 years in prison. □

Hernandez Trial:

Victim's mom leaves as shots of son shown

MICHELLE R. SMITH
Associated Press
FALL RIVER, Massachusetts (AP) — The mother of the man former New England Patriots football star Aaron Hernandez is accused of killing was overcome with emotion Friday as a prosecutor showed the jury graphic photos of her son's body.

For a second straight day, Ursula Ward left the courtroom in tears as prosecutors in Hernandez's murder trial displayed photographs of her son Odin Lloyd's body. Lloyd was shown lying on his back with his left fist curled in a ball over the gunshot wounds to his chest.

Hernandez, 25, is charged in the 2013 shooting death of Lloyd, a 27-year-old semipro football player who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. Lloyd's bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park near Hernandez's home, not far from Gillette Stadium, where the Patriots play.

Hernandez — who had a \$40 million contract but was cut by the Patriots just hours after his arrest in Lloyd's slaying — could get life in prison if convicted. On Sunday, the Patriots will meet the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl, which is the NFL championship and the biggest event in American television. □



US Financial Front:

Consumers fuel steady US economy as rest of world struggles



BurgerFi restaurant supervisor Alexis Charles, right, takes an order from Ellisa Horvath of Aventura, Fla., at the restaurant in Aventura. Companies such as the gourmet hamburger chain BurgerFi plan to nearly double in size from their existing 65 restaurants this year. More consumers are upgrading from fast food and the chain can choose from towns and cities "where the economic train has been rolling along at a pretty rapid pace," said CEO Corey Winograd. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

There's a good reason the U.S. economy is impressing the world right now despite a slowdown in the final three months of 2014: In a word, steadiness.

Companies have been hiring at healthy rates for the past year. Layoffs hover near historic lows. Auto sales are strong. Gas prices have sunk. Congressional budget fights have faded. Americans are increasingly confident.

All that fed a surge of consumer spending last quarter, offsetting weaker business spending caused in part by a pullback by oil drillers and a frail global economy.

The U.S. economy as a whole expanded at a 2.6 percent annual rate, the government said Friday, down from a sizzling 5 percent gain the previous quarter. Yet consumers signaled their optimism by spending at the fastest rate in nearly nine years.

"This hasn't changed my picture on the strength and

resilience of the U.S. economy," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at the Bank of the West. "Almost all the drivers of consumer spending are pointing in the right direction."

Nearly six years into the recovery from the Great Recession, the economy has finally gone from straining just to grow to posting consistently solid gains. The gains have come even though many households continue to struggle without much of a financial cushion. Nearly half say they spend all their income, go into debt or use savings to meet their expenses, a new analysis by the Pew Charitable Trusts has found. In addition, a surging dollar is denting the earnings of U.S. companies that operate overseas. And energy firms have been hurt by plummeting oil prices, and as a result companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index are expected to report weak profit growth.

But collectively, consumers and investors are showing renewed faith in the economy.

On Friday, the University of Michigan said its sentiment index found that U.S. consumers are more confident than they've been since 2004. Also Friday, the government said wages and benefits are ticking up, a sign that steady job gains may be compelling employers to pay a bit more. Most indicators suggest that the economy has surpassed a psychological threshold that has made businesses more comfortable with hiring and infused consumers with more enthusiasm.

"Psychology has been

a big contributor to the improved level of performance in the United States," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at the bank Northern Trust.

At a time when Europe, Asia and South America face deep anxieties, the U.S. economy's greatest strength might be its remarkable sturdiness.

The consensus expectation is that the U.S. economy will expand a solid 3 percent this year, well above the recovery's 2.2 percent annual average. This has made U.S. stocks and Treasury's comparably attrac-

tive — havens from the risks from Europe's prolonged slump, collapsing oil prices, China's slowdown and Japan's struggles to stave off recession.

Yet the U.S. economy still has additional room to continue expanding. In current dollars, the median household income of \$54,417 remains about \$1,800 below its late 2007 levels, according to Sentier Research. More than 5 million households owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth, according to the real estate data firm CoreLogic. □

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American Living:

A Hearing on Housing in Detroit Draws a Reluctant Crowd



Hundreds of homeowners -- many in danger of losing their homes for failing to pay property taxes -- at a Wayne County show cause hearing at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Jan. 29, 2015. Thursday was only the first day of what will be seven days of hearings in the Cobo Center, which officials said they chose because they could not fit the proceedings somewhere smaller.

(Joshua Lott/The New York Times)

MONICA DAVEY

© 2015 New York Times

DETROIT - It is the sort of convention no city wants to host.

Hundreds of Detroit residents on Thursday packed into a vast hall of Cobo

Center, the same complex that hosted the flashy annual auto show last week, gripping yellow notices that told them they were soon to lose their houses for failing to pay property taxes. From all around the hall

came grim stories of unemployment and illness, of family homes passed down from parents but tangled in debt, of landlords who never mentioned that the taxes had gone unpaid for years.

Paulet Johnson, 47, said she thought she had a deal to rent the house she lives in in exchange for paying the owner's tax bills. Yet she discovered that far more was owed in taxes and that the house was subject to foreclosure when the yellow notice - calling for \$3,624 - suddenly appeared on her door. And foreclosure, she feared, might mean eviction.

"I have to find a way to save it," said Johnson, a cashier at a liquor store whose four grandchildren live with her. "If you put us out, all you're going to get is people who don't care, people who are stripping these homes, tearing up the neighborhoods. The city's leaders, fresh out of federal bankruptcy, are pledging to lure new residents and expand the population of a city that has been plagued by decades of exodus. They note that uncollected taxes amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, money cities rely on to pay for services.

Yet even as Detroit envisions a renaissance, the scene from the convention hall Thursday provided a far gloomier picture of what for many will be a foreclosure pipeline out of town.

Wayne County officials have warned that 62,000 Detroit properties are subject to foreclosure this year because the owners had fallen three years behind on taxes. Even as Detroit has had a flood of foreclosures over the last six years, this year's number is a record, accounting for nearly one-sixth of all city properties - an unimaginable total in most cities, tax foreclosure experts said.

Some portion of the properties will be put up in the fall for public auction, where prices have sometimes started as low as \$500.

"This is the worst year ever," Ted Phillips, the executive director of the United Community Housing Coalition, which tries to help people avoid foreclosure, told the gathered crowd, gazing

out at row after row after row.

Though these were technically "show cause" hearings, offering residents a chance to argue that the county should not foreclose on their homes, the scale made it feel more like an unhappy county fair - complete with workers in yellow vests offering help from an array of nonprofit groups and large signs guiding residents into subgroups like "Nondeed holders including renters" and "Homeowner occupants."

Thursday was the first day of what will be seven days of hearings in the Cobo Center, which officials said they had chosen because the proceedings would have outgrown other sites. In the coming months, some of these owners will pay their bills or get on payment plans and save their homes, and thousands already had by Thursday night. Some will not even try. Others will meet requirements for assistance in paying their bills, including a state program that uses federal funds - efforts county officials spent much of the day explaining to residents and urging them to apply for.

David Szymanski, the chief deputy for the Wayne County treasurer's office, said Detroit officials were dealing with the "competing interests" of "collecting taxes that allow services and of keeping people in their homes."

Under new provisions urged by city officials and approved by the state Legislature, Detroit residents who live in their homes may qualify for payment plans that decrease interest on their debt to 6 percent from 18 percent, as well as place caps on the amount owed, based on the home's value.

"Take a deep breath, relax," Szymanski urged the crowd as the day began and residents were told to wait for their numbers to be called. "We don't want to take anyone's property."



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Artillery fire kills at least 12 civilians in Donetsk



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko inspects a newly designed armored personnel carrier for the Ukrainian Army at a military plant in Lviv, Ukraine, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015.

(AP Photo/Mykola Lazarenko, pool)

BALINT SZLANKO
PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — Artillery fire killed at least 12 civilians in the main rebel stronghold of Donetsk on Friday amid fierce fighting between pro-Russia separatists and government troops as hopes for a break in hostilities were dashed when an attempt to call a new round of peace talks failed.

Five people were killed as they were waiting for humanitarian aid outside a community center and two people were killed in the same neighborhood when a mortar shell landed near a bus stop.

By the time an Associated Press journalist arrived at the community center, the bodies were taken away. Nearby trees were cut down by what could have been a projectile.

Five other people died Friday in sporadic artillery fire in the west of Donetsk.

Full-blown fighting between the Russian-backed separatists and government forces erupted anew earlier this month following a period of relative tranquility. Debaltseve, a railway hub which could prove a crucial link between the main rebel-held cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, has become the main focus of hostilities.

Separatists inched toward Debaltseve on Thursday when they burst through government lines into the town of Vuhlehirsk. The press office for Ukraine's operations in the east said Friday that rebels were mounting artillery strikes on government checkpoints and bases in Vuhlehirsk.

"Precision strikes are destroying the opponents' firepower, manpower and

machinery," the press office said.

The fighting is precipitating substantial hardship among the civilian population, which has been unable to leave the area. Debaltseve has been without electricity, running water and household gas for more than a week.

The United Nations on Friday voiced concern about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Debaltseve and other densely populated areas in eastern Ukraine where intense fighting is going on. Neal

Walker, the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, has called for an immediate humanitarian truce to allow humanitarian assistance and evacuation of civilians.

"Indiscriminate shelling of civilians violates international humanitarian law and must stop," he said in a statement.

Shells also rained down this week on the government-held town of Svitlodarsk, 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Debaltseve, destroying gas pipelines, toppling electricity pylons and put-

ting the local hospital out of commission.

Residents across Svitlodarsk stood in huddled groups around the front entrance to their apartment buildings, by the steps leading to the basement, which are now doubling as bomb shelters. Many were busy chopping scrap wood and cooking meals of soup.

"A shell hit a gas pipeline. They turned everything off," said 40-year-old welder Oleg Plashchechnik, as he boiled water to make tea. "There is no power."

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Battle with IS kills senior Kurdish general, 8 of his troops

IMAD MATTI
SAMEER N. YACOB
Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP) — Clashes with Islamic State militants killed a senior Kurdish military commander and eight of his fighters just outside the disputed northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Friday, officials said.

Attacks elsewhere killed 27 people, with twin bombs hitting a crowded market in Baghdad and a suicide bomber targeting pro-government Shiite militiamen who were manning a checkpoint outside a city north of the Iraqi capital. The casualties near the oil-rich Kirkuk were a heavy setback for the Iraqi Kurds, who have been at the forefront of the battle against the Islamic State group, which has captured a third

of both Iraq and Syria in its blitz last year.

Also Friday, a car bomb exploded outside an empty, closed hotel near Kirkuk's police headquarters, wounding two people. Both the Kurdish troops and the city's security force have been trying to rout the IS group from Kirkuk, about 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad. After the car bombing, three gunmen took positions inside the hotel, located in the city center, triggering a firefight with the Kurds and the police. Associated Press footage from the scene showed members of the Kurdish troops and the local police firing at the Qassir Hotel in Kirkuk and then storming it. Officials later said the gunmen were all killed.



Kurdish peshmerga fighters secure a hotel near police headquarters in oil-rich Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. Kurdish troops and the city's security force have been trying to rout militants from the Islamic State group after three gunmen took positions inside the hotel, located in the city center, triggering a firefight with Kurdish fighters and the police.

(AP Photo)

The Kurdish Brig. Gen. Shirko Fatih and eight Kurdish fighters died in clashes south of the city earlier in the day, after the IS militants attacked the peshmerga fighters' positions, said Brig. Khatab Omar.

The U.N. assistance mission in Iraq said Friday it was evacuating its foreign staff from Kirkuk to Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region in northern Iraq, due to "a rapid deterioration in security in

Kirkuk city." A UNAMI statement said the mission was also forced to halt its activities and bar employees from moving around freely within the Kurdish region, except for the cities of Irbil, Suleimaniya and Dahuk. □

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Hezbollah warns against further attacks

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of the militant Hezbollah group said Friday that this week's deadly cross-border attack on Israeli soldiers was a message that it will no longer tolerate any Israeli attacks against its members.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told thousands of supporters in south Beirut that Hezbollah does not fear war and is ready if Israel provokes further violence. It was Nasrallah's first comments since six Hezbollah fighters and an Iranian general were killed on Jan. 18 in an Israeli airstrike in Syria. The group retaliat-

ed on Wednesday with a cross-border rocket attack that killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded seven. The Hezbollah threat comes as the group, which has an arsenal of tens of thousands of missiles and rockets, is currently preoccupied with the war in neighboring Syria — where it is aiding Syrian President Assad's forces.

"We don't fear war and we don't hesitate in facing it if it is imposed on us and we will be victorious, God willing," Nasrallah said, addressing the public rally through a video link from a secret location. Several Lebanese officials as well as Alaeddin Boroujerdi, the

head of Iran's influential parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy, attended the rally.

Warning Israel against any further attacks, Nasrallah said, "You tried us once. Don't try us again." Nasrallah said Hezbollah will no longer abide by any rules of engagement, stating that Hezbollah has the right to retaliate against any future Israeli attack at the time and place of its choosing.

"We, in the Islamic resistance, are not concerned about anything that is called rules of engagement," Nasrallah said in his 75-minute speech. □



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Germany to Greece: Don't mess with us over debt, austerity

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece and its European bailout creditors were in open dispute Friday, with Germany bluntly rejecting suggestions the heavily-indebted country should be forgiven part of its rescue loans and warning against "blackmail" from Athens.

Greece's five-day-old radical left government insists it will honor pre-election promises to seek a cut on most of the country's rescue debt and scrap painful budget measures that were demanded in exchange for the loans.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, however, warned Athens against strong-arm negotiating tactics in its effort to win debt relief. Rules need to be kept, and trust and reliability were the basis for further solidarity, the dpa news agency reported him saying.

"There's no arguing with us about this, and what's more we are difficult to blackmail," Schaeuble was quoted saying in Berlin.

"We are prepared to offer all cooperation and solidarity," he said, but only if Greece abides by its agreements, under which it received 240 billion euros (\$270 billion) in rescue loans.

Without the loans from its fellow eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund, Greece would struggle to service its debts and avoid bankruptcy.

"The discussion about a debt cut or a debt conference is divorced from reality," Martin Jaeger, a German finance ministry spokesman, said in Berlin earlier.

Greece's Parliamentary Budget Office, which

makes quarterly recommendations to lawmakers, warned that the country faces default unless a deal with creditors is reached soon. Greece's next government debt obligations are due in March.

Shares on the Athens Stock Exchange closed down 1.6 percent Friday, capping total losses of 13 percent for the week, while the interest rate on three-year bonds — a gauge of short term risk of default — rocketed to 19.3 percent.

In Athens, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutchman who chairs eurozone finance ministers' meetings, met with top officials to sound out the new government.

Dijsselbloem acknowledged Greeks have gone through much in recent years to reform their economy, and warned that rash actions by the government would not help.

"Taking unilateral steps or ignoring previous agreements is not the way forward," he told reporters in statements after his meeting with Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' government, voted in last Sunday, has already said it will cancel several planned privatization projects and considerably scale down planned budget surpluses required to pay down Greece's massive national debt.

Tsipras will launch a small tour of other eurozone countries next week, flying to Cyprus, Italy and France on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

Greece's bailout, which began in May 2010, runs out on Feb. 28 after an initial two-month extension was granted for completion of frozen negotiations with the so-called "troika" — the European Commission, European Central Bank and IMF.



Dutch Finance Minister and Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem, left, accompanied by Greece's Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, right, listens to a reporter's question during a joint news conference following their meeting at the Finance Ministry in Athens, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)



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Deadline nears for 'stateless' in Dominican Republic

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ
Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)

— An important deadline loomed Friday for tens of thousands of people in the Dominican Republic who were born in the country but are not considered citizens because they are the descendants of migrants, mostly from neighboring Haiti.

The people who fall into this category have until Feb. 1 to apply for a birth certificate as foreigners, which the government says will allow them to apply for citizenship in two years.

So far, about 6,500 people have applied for the document, which is necessary in the Dominican Republic to acquire a residency and work permit, register for school or register to vote. Many children of migrants never received their birth certificate because they weren't born in a hospital and were rebuffed by



People of Haitian descent born in the Dominican Republic stand in line to apply for a birth certificate listing them as foreigners, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015. The government says people have until Feb. 1 to apply for birth certificates as foreigners, needed to gain legal status. (AP Photo/Ezequiel Abiu Lopez)

government officials when they tried to apply for them later.

"The only thing I want is that they give me a document, either Dominican or

Haitian, so I can continue going to school and work," said 22-year-old Ernstcia

Elva, one of many waiting in long lines at registration offices in the capital on Friday.

Elva said she has been unable to get her high school diploma, despite finishing the course work, or get a formal job because she lacks the birth certificate.

There are an estimated 60,000 people who were born in the Dominican Republic to non-citizens, according to Deputy Interior Minister Luis Fernandez. Migrant advocates say the number is actually as high as 200,000.

Many people have not applied for their birth certificate because they don't have the documents to prove they were born in the country before the April 18, 2007, the cut-off period set by a court ruling, or can't afford the fees to register. Some may also be reluctant to declare themselves "foreigners," in the country they were born, fearing the potential repercussions despite government's pledges that they can later apply for citizenship. Some may also believe that they are citizens by birth.

"It will formalize the process of rendering them stateless," said Roque Feliz, director of the Centro Bono, a non-governmental organization that assists migrants.

For many years, the Dominican Republic encouraged people from Haiti to come and work in the sugar cane fields and other marginal jobs, and the population of migrants and their descendants has swelled as a result. □

Jamaica starts debate on pot decriminalization

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Jamaica's Senate on Friday started debating a bill that would decriminalize possession of small amounts of pot and establish a licensing agency to regulate a lawful medical marijuana industry on the island where the drug has long been pervasive but prohibited.

Justice Minister Mark Golding, who introduced the legislation to the upper

house, said it would establish a "cannabis licensing authority" to deal with regulations on cultivation and distribution of marijuana and industrial hemp for medical, scientific and therapeutic purposes.

The various drug law amendments would make possession of up to 2 ounces a petty offense that would not result in a criminal record. Cultivation of five or fewer plants on any premises would be permitted. Tourists who are pre-

scribed medical marijuana abroad could apply for permits authorizing them to legally buy small amounts of Jamaican ganja.

"It is time that Jamaica capitalizes on the plant that has been part of our culture for generations," said Deputy Senate President Angela Brown Burke, a legalization advocate who is also the mayor of Jamaica's capital of Kingston. Rastafarians who use marijuana as a sacrament could also legally use can-

nabis for religious purposes for the first time in Jamaica, where the spiritual movement was founded in the 1930s. It would also give adherents special privileges to use, cultivate and transport the drug for sacramental purposes on the island.

Sen. Tom Tavares-Finson said the opposition supports the government's marijuana reform bill overall, which was recently authorized by the Cabinet, and is "happy with the progress that is being made." □



The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company L.L.C. Receives Honors for 47 Properties in the 2015 Edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Hotel Rankings

CHEVY CHASE, Md. – (January 29, 2015) – An impressive 47 hotels within The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. have been named award winners in the 2015 edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Hotel Rankings.

To qualify for this distinguished accolade, U.S. News & World Report identifies the best hotels using an unbiased methodology centered on three components: reputation among professional travel experts, guest reviews, and hotel class ratings.

The respected organization ranked more than 2,500 hotels across the USA, Caribbean, Mexico and Canada -- with the top 10 percent among the luxury segment analyzed, selected as winners.

"We are honored to have so many properties awarded among this elite group," offers Herve Humler, President and Chief Operations Officer of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. "Our focus and commitment continues to be on service excellence and creating lasting memories for our guests and we are truly proud of our Ladies and Gentlemen for achieving this accolade."

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The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe
The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles
The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

-Best Charlotte Hotels

The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte

-Best Florida Hotels

The Ritz-Carlton, Naples
The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale
The Ritz-Carlton, Golf Resort, Naples
The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota
The Ritz-Carlton Bal Harbour, Miami
The Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne
The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach
The Ritz-Carlton, Coconut Grove

-Best Fort Lauderdale Hotels

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-Best Lake Tahoe Hotels

The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe

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The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles
The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

-Best Miami Hotels

The Ritz-Carlton, Key Biscayne
The Ritz-Carlton, Coconut Grove

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The Ritz-Carlton Bal Harbour, Miami
The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach

-Best Naples Hotels

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About The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, LLC: The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C., of Chevy Chase, Md., currently operates 87 hotels in the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and the Caribbean. More than 30 hotel and residential projects are under development around the globe. The Ritz-Carlton is the only service company to have twice earned the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award which recognizes outstanding customer service. For more information or reservations, visit the company web site at www.ritzcarlton.com, and for company updates, visit news.ritzcarlton.com. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company, L.L.C. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Marriott International, Inc. (NASDAQ:MAR). □

Islanders and Vacationers Alike Enjoy "Betico Day" at Paseo Herencia

PALM BEACH - Many may not realize that aside from being a center for shopping, dining and entertainment, the management of Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach offers regular opportunities for island visitors to become acquainted with Aruba's history and culture, along with outstanding islanders who have made their mark in the world. Sunday, January 25, the national holiday celebrating



the birthday of "El Libertador" of Aruba, Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes, (R.I.P.) offered ample opportunity for exposure to all those elements that comprise island history, culture and pride. The halls and walls of the shopping center are filled with information; one is particularly dedicated to "Betico" and the struggle for Aruban autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, along with the story of the



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island's flag and national anthem. On Sunday evening, traditional island dance and costume were showcased by Kids and Youth in Action, to the delight of everyone. A full amphitheater thoroughly enjoyed this glimpse of Aruban traditions. MC Alberto Groenvelde, this year's Carnival Pancho Fout, provided some background to the holiday, which island visitors found very enlightening. On a humorous note, the holiday not only brought together visitors and residents. The Haleys and the Farners from Pittsburgh, Pa, discovered they lived only 20 miles apart back home,

though they never met prior to sitting down next to each other to enjoy this interesting evening at Paseo Herencia! The mall management expressed they were very pleased to see the large number of vacationers who came to learn more about Aruba, and observe this charming aspect of island culture. "We find it very satisfying to see such enthusiastic response to our efforts," commented Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn. "This is why we put on our weekly cultural show every Monday and make every effort for those on vacation to learn more about our island; we know they appreciate it."

Get In The Game at Touchdown Sports Bar & Grill

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Charles and Laura honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Beach Club, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the

name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Charles and Mrs. Laura Szymaszek from Durham, Connecticut. Charles and Laura are loyal

members of the Aruba Beach Club for 31 years, on this trip they brought their daughter Sandy with them, the family loves the Island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants and



the diversity of the island and Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was present

ed by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Amanda representing the Aruba Beach Club. □



Are You Ready For Some Football?

Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll, left, and New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick participate in a news conference for NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, in Phoenix.

(AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

Historic Super Bowl No Matter The Winner

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — An historic Super Bowl finally arrives. On Sunday, the Seattle Se-

ahawks go for a second straight NFL title, seeking to be the first team to repeat since the New England Patriots a decade ago. A

victory, particularly a convincing one, would stamp the Seahawks as one of the great teams of the Super Bowl era.

Meanwhile, New England's coach and quarterback chase a record-tying fourth Super Bowl ring.

Yet, as has been the cus-

tom this season, major distractions have taken the focus away from the field.

Continued on Page 20

Seahawks vs. Patriots: Key Matchups In Super Bowl XLIX

Seahawks vs. Patriots: Key matchups in Super Bowl XLIX

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Matchups for the Super Bowl on Sunday between the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona:

When the Seahawks (14-4) have the ball:

The Patriots' bid to win a fourth NFL championship since 2001 will get a big head start if they can slow Seattle running back Marshawn Lynch. New England's defense is solid not overwhelming, and led by defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, defensive end Rob Ninkovich, and linebackers Jamie Collins, and Dont'a Hightower. If Lynch is slowed, that leaves the onus for running on quar-

terback Russell Wilson. While highly capable — he rushed for 849 yards and six touchdowns this season — Wilson would prefer balance on offense.

When Wilson throws, he must avoid the interceptions that plagued him vs. Green Bay in the NFC Championship. Not that Wilson was always off-target; two of his interceptions came off tips by wide receiver Jermaine Kearse. But he was not nearly as precise as usual.

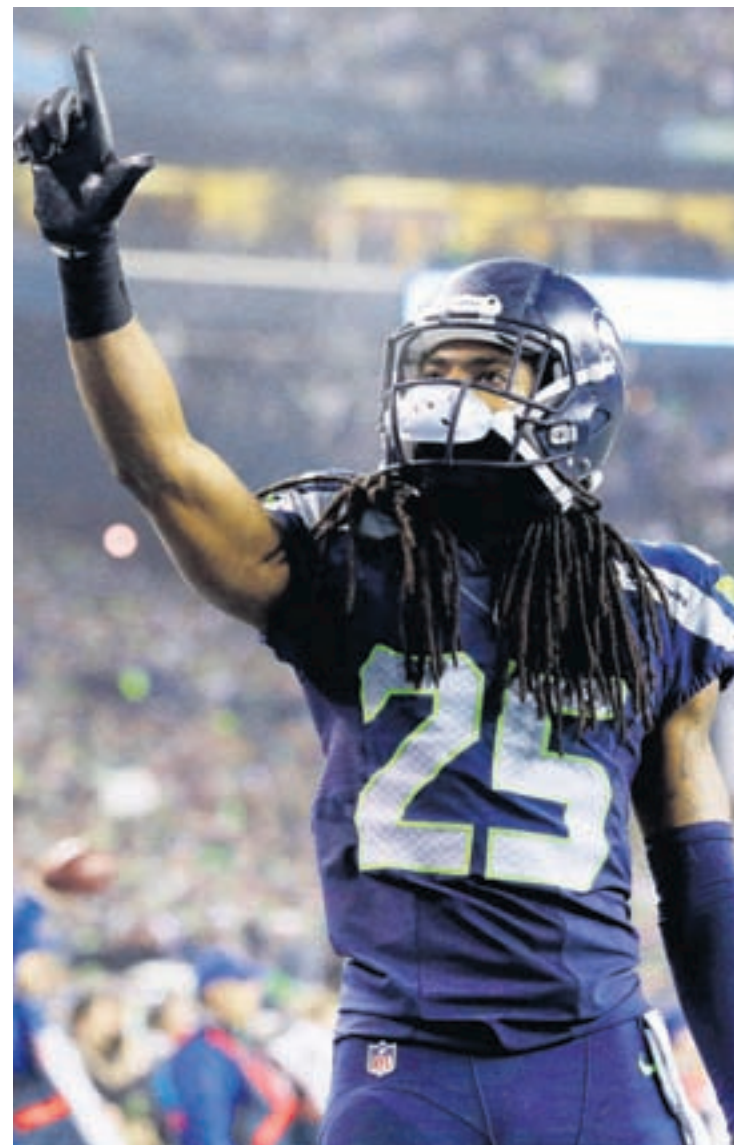
Kearse, who caught the winning touchdown pass in the past two NFC title matches, was targeted on all four interceptions against the Packers. He'll see plenty of cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner, a Seahawk last

season, and could struggle getting open deep. Safety Devin McCourty also will help in coverage on receiver Doug Baldwin and tight end Luke Willson.

One thing Seattle won't do is lose faith even when things aren't working on offense. And behind an unsung offensive line led by left tackle Russell Okung and center Max Unger, they won't back off, either.

When the Patriots (14-4) have the ball:

Unquestionably the key matchup, as it often is these days when the Patriots are on the field, will be tight end Rob Gronkowski against the legions trying to cover him. Much of the assignment will fall to safety Kam Chancellor, who has



In this Jan. 10, 2015 photo, Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman (25) points toward the crowd during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Carolina Panthers in Seattle. Regarded by most as the top two cornerbacks in the NFL, Sherman and Darrelle Revis will be two men to watch during the Super Bowl.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

the size (1.91m, 105kg), speed and tackling skills to somewhat neutralize the player known as "Gronk." If he can do that, it frees safety Earl Thomas to help with versatile wide receiver Julian Edelman, who mostly will draw cornerback Richard Sherman in coverage. Quarterback Tom Brady is particularly comfortable throwing to Gronk and Edelman, and the Seahawks want to force him to look at others instead. But even if the coverage is strong, Seattle must get pressure from pass rushers Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril, along with linebackers Bobby Wagner, and Bruce Irvin. Brady is most vulnerable — which isn't very vulnerable — when he has to throw before he wants to and can't set his feet.

That means an unheralded offensive line featuring

tackles Sebastian Vollmer and Nate Solder needs to be steady.

Green Bay showed the Seahawks can be run on, so running back LeGarrette Blount could wind up being a featured player.

Special Teams:

Although the Seahawks were not great on special teams this season, they were spectacular in beating Green Bay. A fake field goal pass for a touchdown by holder Jon Ryan — one of the NFL's most accurate punters — and an onside kick that kept them alive for the NFC title won't be forgotten in the Pacific Northwest. Generally, though, New England has the edge here. Coverage is very good on punt and kickoff returns, led by Pro Bowler Matthew Slater.

Continued on Page 19

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In this Jan. 18, 2015 photo, New England Patriots cornerback Darrelle Revis celebrates after intercepting a pass from Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck for a 30-yard gain during the second half of the NFL football AFC Championship game in Foxborough, Mass. Regarded by most as the top two cornerbacks in the NFL, Richard Sherman and Revis will be two men to watch during the Super Bowl.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Continued from Page 18

Edelman was second in the NFL with 12 yards per punt return and had one for an 84-yard touchdown. Stephen Gostkowski missed only two field goals and led the NFL with 156 points.

Coaching:

Pete Carroll's revenge? It's not a major story line, but it should be recognized that Carroll preceded Bill

Belichick in New England. He wasn't a bad coach there, either, going 28-23, but that pales compared to Belichick's numbers. No team brings more energy to the field than the Seahawks, and it stems from Carroll. He always has the pulse of his team: Carroll saw how Seattle was suffering from a Super Bowl hangover early in the schedule. He not only got the Seahawks to snap out

of it, but reach peak form down the stretch — at least until last week, when they got lucky, too.

Belichick just surpassed Tom Landry's mark for post-season victories (21). Regardless of the findings of the NFL's probe into under-inflated footballs in the AFC Championship contest, he is known as an innovator — just as much as he is known for stretching the parameters of the rulebook. Belichick keeps things fresh by

finding new ways to exploit the opposition.

Count on him have something unusual lined up for Carroll and the Seahawks.

Intangibles:

Seattle seeks to become the first repeat winner since the Patriots managed it a decade ago. A victory would stamp these Seahawks as an all-time great team, particularly having beaten Peyton Manning and Brady in successive


Super Bowls. The Seahawks also come off a mediocre performance in the NFC title game, which should spur them on.

New England, of course, doesn't want to add a stigma of Super Bowl loser by dropping three in a row after winning in its first three trips with Brady and Belichick. Brady can equal Terry Bradshaw and Joe Montana with four Super Bowl rings, while Belichick can tie Chuck Noll with four. □

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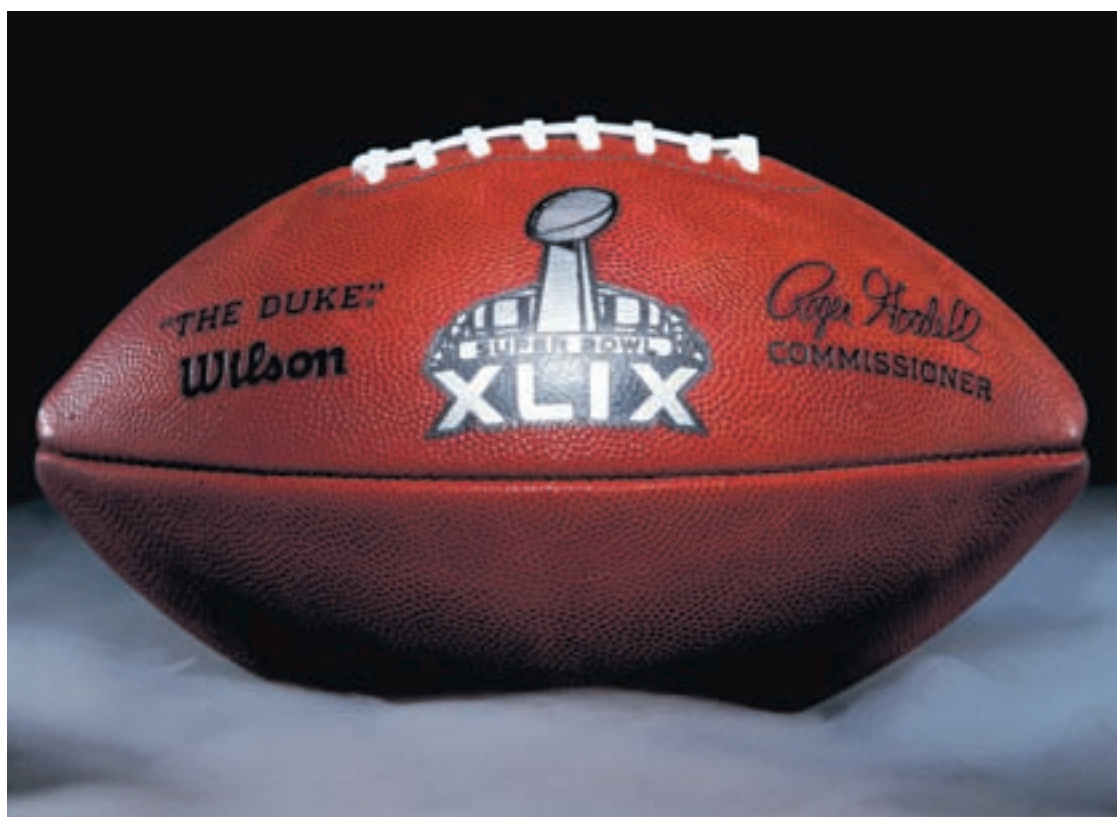


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Historic Super Bowl No Matter The Winner



An official game ball for the NFL football Super Bowl XLIX is photographed at the Wilson Sporting Goods football factory in Ada, Ohio. The company, which has made the official Super Bowl football since the first Super Bowl in 1966, began making the this year's game balls Jan. 18, immediately after the conclusion of the NFC and AFC championship games. The New England Patriots take on the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL championship on Sunday, Feb. 1, in Glendale, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Rick Osentoski)

Continued from Page 17

As much as the Patriots' Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, and the Seahawks' Pete Carroll and Richard Sherman might want the spotlight to shine only on the game itself — and the potential achievements at hand — much of the buildup has been about anything but.

From the New England deflated balls saga to injuries for defensive backs Sherman and Earl Thomas to Marshawn Lynch's code of silence with the media, the 49th Super Bowl has taken on a circus atmosphere.

That seems fitting given all that has gone wrong for the NFL off the field — even as American football remains as popular as ever in the U.S.

Just finding any comments about the matchup of the dynamic defense from Seattle and the potent offense from New England has been a chore. Everything else, it seems, has been in play.

At least Seahawks cornerback Sherman insists the left elbow he hurt in the NFC Championship will not be a factor.

"If I had to slap my brother, I'd be able to do it," he said jokingly.

There's hasn't been much light-hearted stuff coming from New England. Not much football talk, either.

Belichick, who can equal Chuck Noll's four Super Bowl championships as a head coach, has endured grilling about the air pressure in a football, not about the pass pressure Seattle can bring on his quarterback, Brady.

Brady, in turn, has been cross-examined about the weight of the footballs, not about the weight of trying to reach Joe Montana/Terry Bradshaw territory with a fourth Super Bowl triumph.

As for Lynch, he's hardly said a thing. While it's certain the Patriots are scheming how to slow down Beast Mode, the league has yet to react to the running back's latest silent treat-

ment of the media. He's been docked \$100,000 for violating the league's media policy, and was fined \$20,000 last week for an obscene gesture in the NFC Championship win over Green Bay.

Some folks in the NFL offices must be wondering what else could happen to shift the focus from the game. To get back to the machinations on the 100-yard gridiron, there's a key showdown between Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski and Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor, perhaps the only defender who can somewhat match Gronk's power and speed. Can Seattle avoid the pitfalls that plagued it for much of the NFC title game, when it fell behind 16-0 to the Green Bay Packers? And how will high-priced Patriots cornerback Darrelle Revis perform in his first Super Bowl after seven seasons of falling short (on the field if not at the bank)?

There's also what some have dubbed "Pete's Revenge," recalling how Carroll was canned by the Patriots after the 1999 season and replaced by Belichick. Carroll went on to phenomenal success at the University of Southern California even as his successor was turning New England into a power. He's displayed no animosity toward the Patriots organization — anything otherwise would have fit in with the theme of the season and the past few weeks, of course.

"It was a real challenge," said Carroll, who went 28-23 in three seasons with the Patriots. "It's a great place to be in sports: A great town, a great following, much like it is here (in Seattle).

"We did some good stuff while we were there, but it didn't work out, and time to move on."

Yes, maybe it's time to move on from all the tangential stuff and concentrate on what the Super Bowl is supposed to represent: American football. □

Djokovic beats Wawrinka to reach fifth Australian Open final

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic reached a fifth Australian Open final, avenged a long and arduous loss to Stan Wawrinka

straight titles from 2011 before losing in the quarter-finals last year to Wawrinka. Only Roger Federer and Stefan Edberg had reached five men's finals at the Australian in the Open

It was good enough to increase his career record to 17 wins in 20 matches against Wawrinka, who won his first major title here last year. The Swiss player didn't advance past the

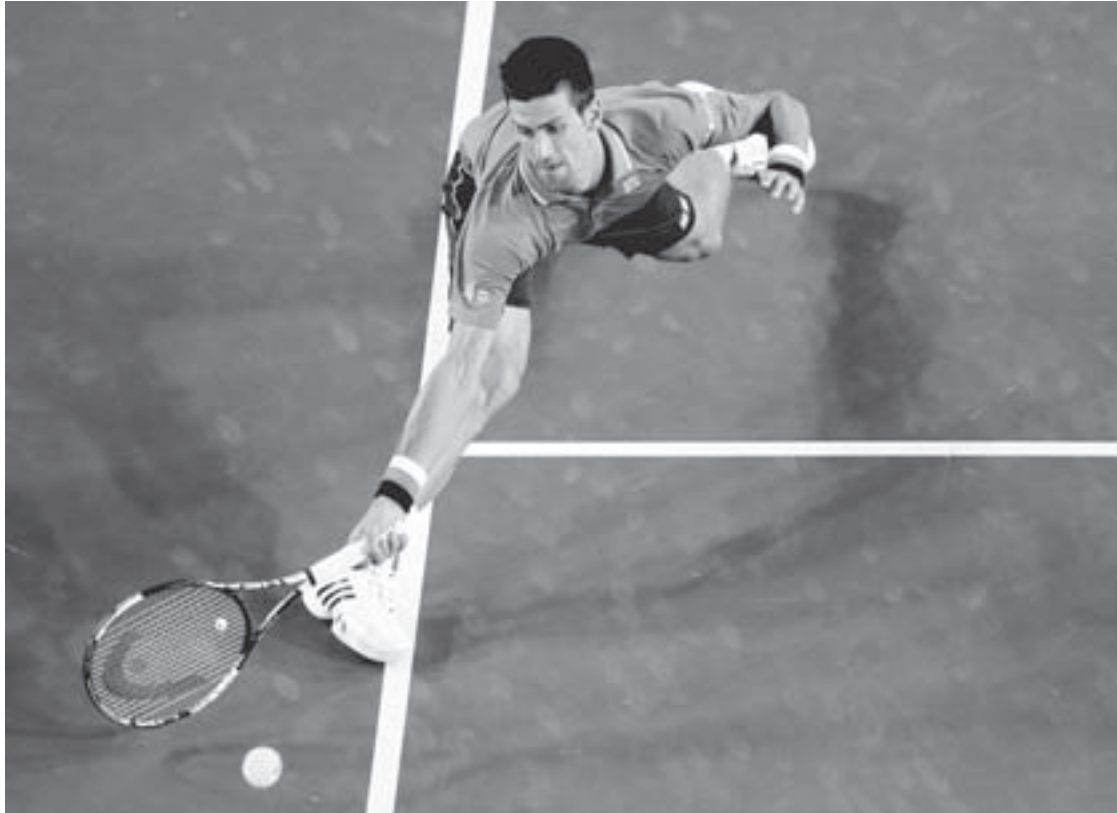
Australia in 2011 and '13 and Murray at the 2012 U.S. Open and Wimbledon in 2013.

And then there's the question of fitness, and whether Djokovic can rebound quickly and with one less day to prepare.

"There's no question about it. Some points of the match I did struggle physically to recover for the next one," Djokovic said of his semi-final. "I didn't have many free points on the first serve

as I did throughout the tournament, so that was a significant change. But, you know, nothing that will worry me. You know, I'm sure that I'll be fit and ready for finals.

"Once you're on the court, you really forget about being exhausted or, you know, sick or something like this." Top-ranked Serena Williams had to re-schedule a practice session ahead of Saturday's women's final against No. 2 Maria Sharapova. □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia stretches out for a return to Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland during their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

and ensured he'd renew an old rivalry with Andy Murray.

The top-ranked Djokovic was so absorbed in the moment, he lost track of the score during Friday's semifinal. His mental lapse after the third set probably cost him the fourth, but the four-time Australian Open champion recovered with three service breaks in the fifth set to beat defending champion Wawrinka 7-6 (1), 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0.

"Sometimes these things happen, you get carried away by a moment," Djokovic said, trying to explain his perplexed expression after he'd taken a lead of two sets to one. "I was very confused when I saw the security on the court. "The circumstances, obviously playing Grand Slam semifinals against the defending champion ... a lot of emotions going around. Sometimes you can't keep track of the score."

Djokovic has a 100 percent winning record in finals at Melbourne Park, claiming his first Grand Slam here in 2008 and winning three

era.

The previous two meetings between Djokovic and Wawrinka at the Australian Open had gone to five sets and lasted a combined nine hours. Friday's match lacked that kind of intensity and memorable moments. "Strange," Wawrinka said. "Not the best."

At times Wawrinka got on top of Djokovic, who sometimes looked lethargic. Despite dropping serve in four of the five sets, Djokovic kept his composure in the 3-hour, 30-minute match as Wawrinka blasted 42 winners but offset that with 69 unforced errors.

The momentum shifted suddenly in three of the five sets, with both players struggling to turn service breaks into big leads and wasting breakpoint opportunities. Djokovic hit 27 winners — none in the fourth set — and finished with 49 unforced errors.

"The battle was great ... in terms of fighting from both sides," Djokovic said, "but the level of performance was not where I wanted it to be."

quarterfinals at his next three Grand Slam events, and will drop to No. 9 when the next rankings are released.

"There's no pressure for that," Wawrinka said of the burden of defending a title. "But, no, for sure we had some great battles here last two years. Today was strange match. He was there playing good enough to win and he deserve to win and play the final."

Murray is moving in the other direction, restoring his position in the so-called Big Four of major winners that includes Djokovic, No. 2 Federer and No. 3 Rafael Nadal, who dominated the Grand Slam titles for so long.

Sixth-seeded Murray, who has lost three Australian Open finals, moved into the championship match with a fiery four-set win over No. 7 Tomas Berdych on Thursday night.

Djokovic has beaten Murray in seven of their last eight matches and is 15-8 overall, but they're level in Grand Slam finals with two wins apiece — Djokovic in

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PROJECT ALMANAC
[PG-13]
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:55 | 9:20
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MON-THURS 5:10 | 8:00 [R]
FRI 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50
SAT 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

JENNIFER LOPEZ | RYAN GUZMAN
THE BOY NEXT DOOR
MON-THURS 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 [R]
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

KEVIN HART | JOSH GAD
the Wedding Ringer
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRI 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

HUGH BONNEVILLE | SALLY HAWKINS
PADDINGTON
2 BAFTA AWARDS NOMINATIONS
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MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:25
SAT-SUN & HOL 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25

HELEN MCCRORY | JEREMY IRVINE
THE WOMAN IN BLACK 2
ANGEL OF DEATH [PG-13]
MON-THURS 9:35
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 9:35

LIAM NEESON | FOREST WHITAKER
TAK3N
MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 [PG-13]
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 12:10
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In The Rough:

Woods posts 82 in Arizona, highest score of pro career

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Tiger Woods never shot a score this high in his 1,267 official rounds as a pro.

He never looked more lost on a golf course.

Woods hit wedges fat and thin, but never close. He hit one drive into the water, another into the base of a desert bush. And when he missed a 10-foot par putt on his final hole Friday in the Phoenix Open, he had the worst score of his career — an 11-over 82.

Woods was in last place when he headed home to Florida to try to fix a game in disarray, even behind Arizona club pro Michael Hopper, who had yet to tee off. It was the first time in his career that he missed the cut in consecutive PGA Tour events, the most recent one in August at the PGA Championship.

About the only thing he didn't lose was his sense of humor.

"I'm just doing this so I don't get fined," Woods said with a smile as he faced the media, repeating Marshawn Lynch's only line at Super Bowl media day.

Even so, this round might have been more painful than getting his tooth knocked out last week in Italy.

His previous worst score was an 81 in the third round at Muirfield in the 2002 British Open, where he caught the brunt of whipping rain in 40 mph wind. There was only a light drizzle in the Valley of the Sun, and Woods hit a low point in his career.

"We all have days like this," Woods said. "Unfortunately, mine was in a public forum. We take the good with the bad, and the thing is, even on bad days like this, just keep fighting. On the good days, you've got to keep fighting, as well."

He attributed his shocking play to his latest swing change, which he described in December as "new but old," although this game resembles neither. He left Sean Foley during his four-month break to



Tiger Woods tees off on the fifth hole during the second round of the Phoenix Open golf tournament, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, in Scottsdale, Ariz. (AP Photo/Rick Scuteri)

fully heal from back surgery and now has California-based Chris Como as a swing consultant.

"I was caught right between patterns, just old pattern, new pattern," Woods said. "And I got better, more committed to what I was doing on my back nine and hit some better shots. But still got a lot of work to do."

He scrapped plans to go to the Super Bowl and headed home to Florida to practice before returning next week to Torrey Pines. The most glaring weakness remains the short game — chips, bunker play and putting.

Continued on Page 27

McIlroy surges to lead in Dubai Desert Classic



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off on the first hole during the round two of the Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

Rory McIlroy birdied an 18-foot putt on his final hole to surge into a one-shot lead at the halfway stage of the Dubai Desert Classic on Friday. On the Majlis course of Emirates Golf Club, where he recorded his first victory as a professional in 2009, McIlroy enjoyed a superb day of ball-striking as he notched a bogey-free round of 8-under-par 64. His 14-under-par total after two rounds was one ahead of Scotland's Marc

Warren, who continued his remarkable run of form following a second-place finish last week in Doha, with a nine-birdie round of 65. Graeme McDowell, playing his first tournament of the year, showed no signs of rust as he added a 65 to his opening 67, and was tied for third at 12 under with England's Seve Benson, whose 66 contained a double-bogey 7 on the par-5 18th hole.

Defending champion Stephen Gallacher also made a rare double bo-

gey on the Majlis course, where his last three finishes have been second-first-first, but he made four birdies over the next five holes for a round of 67. The Scotsman was tied for fifth on 11 under with the Race to Dubai leader Danny Willett (66) of England, overnight leader Bernd Wiesberger (69) of Austria, and the English duo of Lee Westwood (68) and Andy Sullivan (68). McIlroy sprayed slightly from the tee, finding just seven out of 14 fairways,

but that did not deter him from hitting all but one green in regulation. And while a three-foot birdie putt did horseshoe out on the 12th hole, and he burned the edge in the next two, he was delighted with his round, which gave him the halfway lead in the tournament for the fifth time in eight starts. "I felt like I played very nicely. Couldn't ask for much more; bogey-free, made birdies, and set myself up for a good run over the next couple of days," McIlroy said.

"But there are so many people who are close to the lead, it's so bunched up."

Warren, who is ranked 56th in the world and needs a good finish this week to crack into the top-50 and earn his first invitation to the Masters in April, made one bogey before and after the turn, and finished on a high by rolling in a 50-foot birdie putt on his final hole, the ninth of the course.

Denmark's Morten Orum Madsen shot the lowest round of the day, a 9-under 63 to improve into a tie for 10th at 10-under par.

The cut was at 2 under, which was missed by Sergio Garcia (71), at 2 over. □

Technology giants invest in more dreams of grandeur

QUENTIN HARDY

© 2015 New York Times

In the last two weeks, investments from some of the biggest technology companies have raised an important question: Have they gone crazy?

The short answer is: Probably not. The reasons show just how big their ambitions have become.

First, Qualcomm, which makes semiconductors for smartphones, invested with Richard Branson's Virgin Group on a constellation of satellites. Google went into orbit, too, joining Fidelity on a \$1 billion investment in SpaceX, Elon Musk's private rocketry company. The company also seemed interested in reselling the wireless assets of established phone companies. Microsoft on Wednesday showed off the latest version of its single most important asset, the Windows operating system, along with some gee-whiz holographic goggles, a device with virtually (pun intended) no market. On Thursday, Amazon, which has a big cloud computing business, said it was buying an Israeli maker of advanced semiconductors for about \$350 million.

All of this could be ascribed to the kind of behavior often seen in the late stages of a bubble, when some companies have more money than ideas, and it has become hard to tell what anything is worth.

"One theory is that Silicon Valley has lost its mind," said Chris Dixon, a partner at Andreessen Horowitz, a leading venture capital firm. In reality, he says, "They are building something, and large parts of the economy haven't adapted to it yet."

While Andreessen Horowitz receives a lot of attention for flashy investments like Facebook and Skype, Dixon says that 30 percent of his firm's deals are in now-obscure businesses that will turn out to be important in the new industrial landscape.

History offers parallels for big companies making strange moves. When George Eastman was building Kodak, he included railheads to his industrial park, for cattle whose hooves were used for the gelatin on consumer film stock. Eastman could not find the quality he needed from conventional sources, which had never before had to supply a business like Kodak.

In 1926, the Firestone tire company acquired 1 million acres of Liberia for rubber trees, because the company was worried that colonial powers would cut off its supply.

These may have been the acts of rapacious monopolists who wanted to control every area of their domain, but that was not entirely the motivation. Necessity was; they were building new businesses, and they needed unimpeded high-quality supplies.

"There is absolutely no part of the process that is not touched" by taking computation to a global scale, said David Campbell, the head of engineering at Microsoft Azure, Microsoft's cloud business. "We're creating self-optimizing systems, and it will touch all industries."

Which again raises the "rapacious monopolist" issue. How far will the big guys go when there is seemingly no part of the world they do not want to touch?

Campbell says that an industrial power made of combining mobility, cloud and data analysis makes possible a winner-take-all situation for an Airbnb or an Uber, in a way a hotel or taxi company could never before have achieved.

Optimists note that the sheer amount of invention makes possible new businesses. Big data, for example, emerged from methods created by Google and Yahoo 10 years ago. □

Circuits:

Signs that virtual reality is on the verge

MOLLY WOOD

© 2015 New York Times

Ready or not, here comes virtual reality.

Gaming was the focus of the original Oculus Rift headset, the virtual reality viewing device that set off the recent wave of interest in the technology. But now companies like Samsung, movie studios and Silicon Valley startups are racing to create new types of video experiences for virtual reality - and in some cases, even the cameras they will need to film it.

"The videos, the games, the phone, the operating system: Everything needs to be from scratch to make this work," said Nick DiCar-

Google created a template for Google Cardboard - virtual reality goggles made out of cardboard that will fit most any phone. Like the Gear VR, you slip a phone into the headset to get started. A few companies sell them already made for \$10 to \$45, or you can follow Google's instructions and build your own from readily available materials.

Microsoft recently announced an augmented reality headset called HoloLens, which may come out this year. Augmented reality is slightly different from virtual reality because it lays virtual elements on top of the real world in-

a slate of virtual reality films that included immersive news programming from Vice, and a short companion film to the movie "Wild," created by Fox Searchlight Pictures, that lets viewers stand on the trail alongside the movie's star, Reese Witherspoon. And 8,000 Google Cardboard headsets were handed out so festivalgoers could watch. Oculus announced a new division within the company called Story Studio, which is dedicated to creating computer-generated virtual reality films that respond to what the user does. At Sundance, Story Studios showed its first film, a project called



In an undated handout image, the Samsung Gear VR, a prototype virtual reality headset. Major technology and media companies are investing heavily in virtual reality, a signal that the experience may soon be ready for mass consumption. (Handout via The New York Times)

lo, who leads the virtual reality efforts at Samsung. It is "really the dawn of a new era," he added.

But really, where are we with the development of virtual reality?

The best virtual reality headset you can buy at the moment is the \$200 Samsung Gear VR - actually built in partnership with Oculus - which requires you to also own a Samsung Galaxy Note 4 smartphone. The headset works by inserting the phone into the front of the goggles, and the phone acts as both computer and screen.

For a cheaper and more universal experience,

stead of taking you into an entirely contained experience. Google has invested more than \$500 million in Magic Leap, a company that is also working on augmented reality technology. Once you try virtual reality, even despite some technical and visual drawbacks, you can easily imagine that watching short videos, playing games or interacting with friends would be fun, immersive and transporting. It's truly a new form of entertainment - once there's something to watch.

And content is coming. This week's Sundance Film Festival, for example, featured

"Lost," whose length actually changes depending on what the viewer does within the experience.

Jason Rubin, head of content at Oculus, said the company would continue to work on games and other virtual reality content, in addition to computer-generated video.

"Entertainment will be the cornerstone in the short run" to the rise of virtual reality, he said. "In the long run, VR has so much potential in so many ways: education, architecture, tourism. The entertainment gets it started but the entertainment is not the end of it." □

Marlboro maker Altria's 4Q profit more than doubles

M. FELBERBAUM
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Marlboro maker Altria Group Inc.'s profit more than doubled in the fourth quarter on higher cigarette prices and lower costs for paying down debt. The owner of the nation's biggest cigarette maker, Philip Morris USA, said Friday the number of cigarettes it shipped fell nearly 2 percent to more than 31 billion cigarettes, but its share of the U.S. retail market rose 0.1 percentage points to 50.9 percent. Volumes of its premium Marlboro brand fell nearly 2 percent and its share of the retail U.S. market remained flat at 43.8 percent. Higher prices and gains in

its financial services division helped drive Altria's revenue up about 5 percent to \$4.61 billion, excluding excise taxes. Analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research expected \$4.51 billion.

Altria, based in Richmond, Virginia, posted earnings of \$1.24 billion, or 63 cents per share, for the period ended Dec. 31, up from \$488 million, or 24 cents a share, a year earlier.

Excluding one-time items, earnings were 66 cents per share, missing Wall Street expectations by a penny, according to Zacks.

Its shares fell 10 cents to \$54.29 in morning trading Friday.

The company also said Friday that Dave Beran, its

president and chief operating officer, plans to retire in March after 38 years with the company. CEO Marty Barrington's responsibilities will be expanded to include the role of president. Chief Financial Officer Howard Willard will become COO and William Gifford, an executive in strategy and business development, will become CFO. The Marlboro brand has been under pressure from competitors and lower-priced cigarette brands. That's on top of the tax hikes, smoking bans and a social stigma that have made the cigarette business tougher. The brand sold for an average of \$6.02 per pack during the fourth quarter, compared with an

average of \$4.55 per pack for the cheapest brand.

"We've been cautious for the last several years as you know, as we went through this difficult recession," Barrington said in a conference call with investors. "Our view is that the adult tobacco consumer is feeling better about their economic situation and their economic future and we expect some modest improvement in that over 2015."

Altria and others are focusing on cigarette alternatives — such as electronic cigarettes, cigars, snuff and chewing tobacco — for future sales growth because the decline in cigarette smoking is expected to continue. □

Alibaba assures stronger action over fake goods

BEIJING (AP) — E-commerce giant Alibaba pledged Friday to do more to fight online sales of counterfeit goods, quickly settling a public dispute with a Chinese regulator after the value of its U.S.-traded shares plunged.

Alibaba founder Jack Ma and the director of the Cabinet's State Administration of Industry and Commerce met and pledged to cooperate more closely to combat sales of fakes, the agency said in a statement.

A report Wednesday by the SAIC accused Alibaba of lax oversight and allowing sales of counterfeit goods on its popular Taobao e-commerce platform. Alibaba said it was not to blame and, in a break with the usual deferential tone of Chinese companies toward regulators, took the unusual step of publicly accusing the agency and one of its officials of misconduct and bias.

But the company faced pressure to end the conflict after the news caused its U.S.-traded shares to fall. They tumbled further Thursday after its latest quarterly revenue disappointed investors. The two-day decline knocked \$38 billion off the Alibaba's \$264 billion market capitalization. Alibaba is one of China's biggest corporate names and a star of a fast-growing Internet industry communist leaders are eager to develop. But it has little leverage against the powerful SAIC, which has stepped up anti-monopoly and other enforcement against Chinese and foreign companies.

In Friday's statement, SAIC director Zhang Mao affirmed the importance of e-commerce in generating jobs and economic activity. He said, though, that it "still has problems" and companies need to "strengthen self-discipline." Alibaba's Ma was cited as promising to spend more to spot counterfeit goods and to work more closely with law enforcement. □

Stocks sag at the close; January ends on weak note



Trader Peter Mancuso, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Jan. 30, 2015. U.S. financial markets veered lower in trading Friday as investors sifted through corporate earnings and economic news.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

The U.S. stock market capped a rough month Friday, delivering its third loss in five days and extending its declines for the year. All told, the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3 percent in January, its worst monthly performance in a year. While the U.S. economy continued to show signs of strength, energy companies suffered from a sharp drop in oil prices and some big multinational companies saw their earnings dinged by a stronger dollar.

On Friday, investors also weighed the consequences of a slowdown in U.S. economic growth and how further strength in the dollar could dent corporate profits.

"The real issue still is the confusion, the uncertainty around the speed of decline in oil prices and what that means, and the rise in the dollar and what that means for earnings," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management.

The concerns about a surging dollar intensified after Russia's central bank unex-

pectedly cut interest rates to 15 percent from 17 percent to help the weakening economy. That sent the ruble down against the dollar.

Before the U.S. market opened, the government said that the economy grew 2.6 percent in the last quarter of 2014, as weaker government and business spending held growth back. The decline was unexpected and down from a gain of 4.6 percent in the second quarter and 5 percent in the third quarter. But others news signaled the steady health of

the U.S. economy. Consumer spending surged in the final three months of 2014. The Labor Department reported that wages and benefits rose last year by 2.2 percent, the biggest calendar-year increase since 2008.

Investors also sifted through the latest batch of corporate earnings news, and the results were mixed.

Amazon.com and Visa reported strong results late Thursday. Amazon jumped 13.7 percent, while Visa rose 2.8 percent.

Several companies didn't fare as well, including Ugg footwear maker Deckers Outdoor and the parent of Hawaiian Airlines, which offered discouraging outlooks. Deckers slumped 19.7 percent, while Hawaiian Holdings slid 27 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 251.90 points, or 1.5 percent, to close at 17,164.95. The S&P 500 index lost 26.26 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,994.99. The Nasdaq composite fell 48.17 points, or 1 percent, to 4,635.24.

Nine of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 fell, with utilities declining the most.

The one sector that rose was energy. Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$3.71 to close at \$48.24 a barrel in New York. □

AbbVie reports better-than-expected 4Q on Humira sales

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. (AP) — Drugmaker AbbVie posted better-than-expected adjusted results for the fourth quarter on Friday because of double-digit growth of its blockbuster anti-inflammatory drug Humira. Sales of Humira increased 10.6 percent to \$3.36 billion, offsetting lower sales of the testosterone medication Androgel and

other medications. Humira is approved for more than a dozen conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and psoriasis. The North Chicago-based company's full results were weighed down by a \$2.2 billion breakup fee and other expenses from its abandoned merger with Shire PLC. That left it

with a loss of \$810 million, or 51 cents per share, for the fourth quarter. AbbVie had envisioned buying Shire and reincorporating on the British island of Jersey, where Shire is incorporated. But AbbVie's board got cold feet after the U.S. government created new limitations on the tax benefits of incorporating overseas. Excluding the impact of

breakup fee and related expenses the company would have earned 89 cents per share. That was better than the average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research of 85 cents per share. The drugmaker posted revenue of \$5.45 billion in the period, also topping Street forecasts. Analysts expected \$5.37 billion,

according to Zacks. The quarter's results included \$48 million from the Viekira Pak, a new hepatitis C medication approved in the U.S. in December. It's among several new pill-only hepatitis C treatments, including offerings from Johnson & Johnson and Gilead Sciences, which are all big improvements over earlier treatments. □

Shake Shack shares more than double in stock market debut

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors seem to be craving burgers and crinkle-cut fries. Shares of Shake Shack Inc., a burger chain that started as a New York City hot dog cart, more than doubled in their stock market debut Friday. Shake Shack, created by restaurateur Danny Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group, is the latest "fast-casual" chain to attract investors. Many Americans are ditching fast-food chains, such as McDonald's, for restaurants that tout fresh ingredients. Shake Shack cooks its burgers to order and promotes its use of natural ingredients, including hormone- and antibiotic-free beef. Shake Shack's New York roots are also likely driving demand for the stock. "There isn't anyone on Wall Street who hasn't tried their burgers and shakes," says Kathleen Smith, principal at Renaissance Capital, an exchange-traded fund

manager that focuses on IPOs. "It's a local favorite." Shake Shack raised \$105 million, on Thursday selling 5 million shares at \$21 per share. It had initially forecast that its shares would fetch \$14 to \$16 per share from investors, and raised that forecast to \$17 to \$19 per share on Wednesday as demand grew. Shares began trading Friday, and were up 130 percent, or \$27.40, to \$48.40 in the afternoon — suggesting that the company could have sold its stock for a higher price in its IPO and raised more money. The company and the banks that priced the IPO may have been surprised by how much demand there was for Shake Shack's shares, Smith said. It has 63 locations in nine countries, but most of them are along the East Coast. Others are in Las Vegas, Chicago, London and Istanbul. Shake Shack plans to use some of the money raised to open restaurants in new



Pedestrians walk by a Shake Shack in New York's theater district. Investors seem to be craving burgers and crinkle-cut fries as Shares of Shake Shack Inc., a burger chain that started as a New York City hot dog cart, more than doubled in their stock market debut Friday.

(AP Photo/Mark Kennedy)

markets. The company said it expects to eventually have 450 locations. The stock's pop on Friday follows IPOs of other fast-casual restaurants in 2014 that have had big first-day gains, including Mediterranean-style restaurant chain Zoe's Kitchen Inc., chicken chain El Pollo Loco Hold-

ings Inc. and burger chain The Habit Restaurants Inc. As for Shake Shack, its stock is trading under the ticker symbol "SHAK" on the New York Stock Exchange. It took about 14 years for Shake Shack to go from the hot dog cart in Manhattan's Madison Square Park to Wall Street. Three years

after the cart opened in 2001, the company opened a kiosk in the same park, then restaurants in New York City. Long lines are common, and guests are given vibrating pagers that signal when an order is ready. The first restaurant outside New York City opened in 2010 in Miami. □

Barbie blues gave Mattel holiday disappointment

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

Slumping sales of Barbie did little to bring a happy holiday to her maker, Mattel Inc. Mattel's fourth-quarter earnings release Friday drilled down into the details of a weak performance that led to the resignation of its chairman and CEO. Barbie sales fell 12 percent, though that wasn't as bad as the third quarter's 21

percent drop. Fisher-Price sales fell 11 percent. While American Girl slipped 4 percent, it was better than the 7 percent decline in the third quarter. Hot Wheels sales rose 5 percent. Interim CEO Christopher Sinclair said he will spend the next few months evaluating the company's businesses to "revitalize our brands." The results for the quarter

that ended Dec. 31 are important because they include the holiday season, a make-or-break time of year for toy makers. Mattel's fourth-quarter performance fell far short of Wall Street's expectations when the toy maker provided preliminary results Monday, the same time it announced the departure of CEO Bryan Stockton. Stockton became CEO in January 2012 and then was

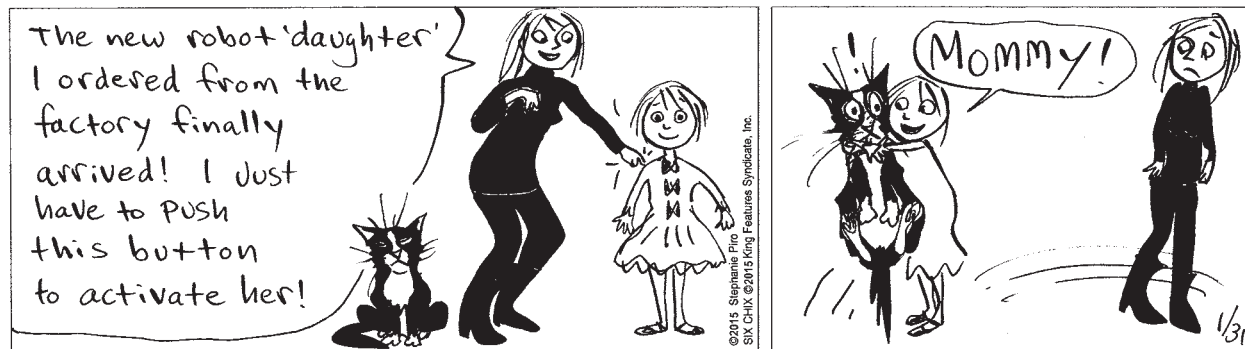
named chairman a year later. A former Kraft Foods executive, he served as a Mattel's chief operating officer before becoming CEO. Sinclair has served as a Mattel Inc. director since 1996. For the fourth quarter, Mattel posted an adjusted profit of 52 cents per share on revenue of \$1.99 billion. That was below the 83 cents per share on revenue of \$2.07 billion that analysts polled by FactSet

predicted. Drew Crum of Stifel Nicolaus said in a client note that not all was bad for Mattel in the fourth quarter, as it significantly lowered retail inventory in domestic markets and reported better-than-expected revenue from Mega Brands. But the analyst kept a "Hold" rating, saying he is waiting for evidence of improvement in its core brands. □

Mutts



6 Chix



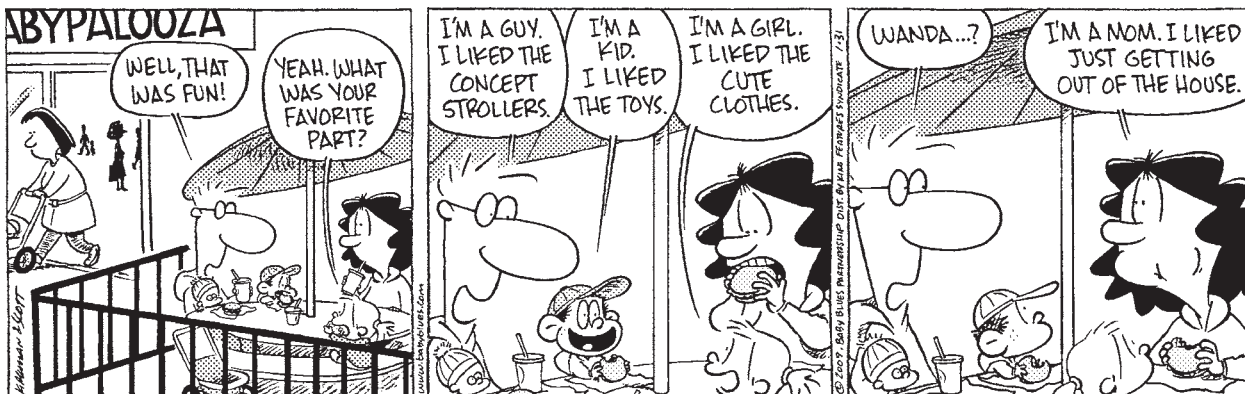
Blondie



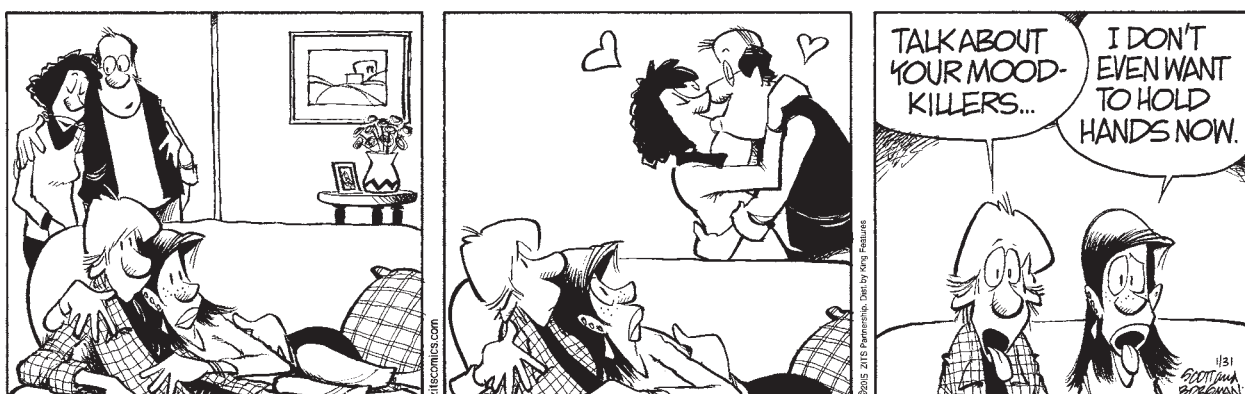
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1				3	2			
			7		9	1		
		2				4	3	
	9					5		
		6		8		7		
		3					1	
	1	9				6		
		4	5		2			
		5		4				1

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

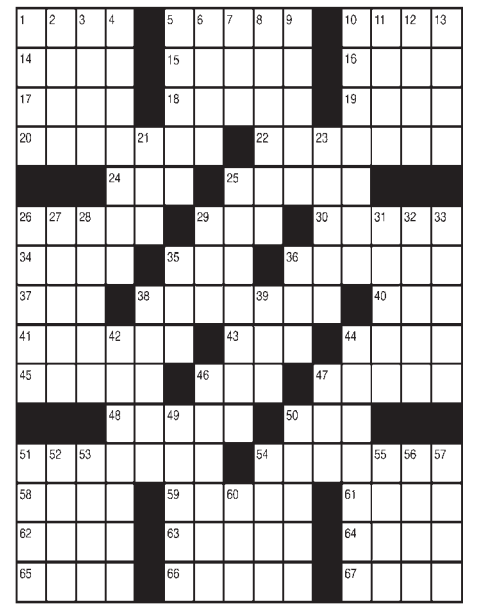
8	1	2	3	5	4	7	9	6
5	9	3	7	2	6	4	8	1
6	4	7	8	1	9	5	2	3
7	3	6	2	8	5	1	4	9
9	5	8	6	4	1	3	7	2
4	2	1	9	7	3	8	6	5
1	8	4	5	6	2	9	3	7
2	7	9	1	3	8	6	5	4
3	6	5	4	9	7	2	1	8

ACROSS

- Go by
- People who exploit others
- Punch
- Regulation
- Dutch flower
- off; left suddenly
- Common metal
- Navajo or Crow
- Seaweed
- Afternoon show
- Chatterbox
- Father, "Who art in..."
- Ethical; honest
- Contempt
- Is able to
- Goes first
- Scottish caps
- Barbarian
- Try to relieve the doubts of another
- Geisha sash
- shorts; summer pants
- TV's Rather
- Temperature, pulse, etc.
- Conjunction
- Swine
- Follow as a result of
- Altar vow
- The ones over there
- Actor Willem
- Tiny vegetable
- one's duty; was derelict
- Defamation of character
- Story
- Leg bone
- Albacore, e.g.
- Friendly nation
- Bumbling
- Likelihood
- Supervisor
- Thickheaded
- Net fabric

DOWN

- Stiffly proper
- Invisible emanation



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/31/15

Friday's Puzzle Solved

SCAMP	APES	SHOP
POLIO	LOLL	COTE
ALERT	ILKA	OUTS
NEGATIVE	CLOSET	
GENE	SKATERS	
ALBERT	ENSUE	
DOA	SHALE	DREGS
DOLL	ELVES	SALE
SKEIN	TIRED	CUT
SOLES	NOSHES	
GLITTER	FOUL	
LADLES	MARGINAL	
ABLE	STAB	LEAKY
DOES	EARL	ASTIR
ERRS	NUKE	STONE

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1/31/15

- Job opening
- Over-65 crowd
- Complete; total
- Positive
- Samuel's teacher
- Blue; first prize
- Lance
- Horses' homes
- Lounge around
- Egg on
- Equipment
- Convent lady
- Wood for rafts
- Not natural; manufactured
- Range
- Home of logs
- Leaves out
- Mongrel
- Sound portion of a broadcast
- Hauls behind
- Good judgment
- "For a jolly good fellow..."
- Tally up
- Dreary; grim
- dos, tres...
- Hepburn and Meadows
- Ghost
- Medicine shelf classic
- Earl Grey
- Stinky
- Piece of china
- Puncture
- Ring of light
- Misfortunes
- Drinks slowly
- City fellow on a ranch
- Concludes
- Too hasty
- Stein or Stiller

In The Rough:

Continued from Page 22

Nothing was uglier than the par-3 fourth hole when his tee shot went over the green. The chip was difficult because he short-sided himself and was only 35 feet from the flag. Woods hit it 47 yards, the ball shooting low and hot all the way across the green and into a front bunker. He blasted out to 20 feet and two-putted for double bogey.

That was on his back nine, and by then, the only question was whether he would post the highest score of his career.

The damage came early. Woods pulled his tee shot into the desert on the tough 14th hole and it turned into a scavenger hunt. He headed toward a ball on the left side of the desert only to realize it wasn't his — it was Mike Weir's tee shot on the 13th hole. He stepped into a bed of cactus, reached gingerly through the needles to get the ball and realized that wasn't his, either. His was found at the base of a bush, and he had to take a penalty stroke to remove it. Then, a stock pitch shot from short of the green barely reached the putting surface, and he two-putted from 40 feet for double bogey.

In the gray morning sky of light drizzle, he didn't realize until after his tee shot on the 15th that it never cleared the water. Woods hit a mid-iron for his fourth shot into a left bunker, and then bladed that out so far over the green that only the rough on the other side kept it from going in the water. He

flubbed that chip and took triple bogey.

The atmosphere on the par-3 16th was slightly muted, though that didn't keep a row of rowdies in the bleachers from wearing ski masks over their faces, a tribute to the mask Woods was wearing in Italy to hide his missing tooth. He was watching girlfriend Lindsey Vonn win a record 63rd World Cup race. Jordan Spieth, playing in the group with Woods and Patrick Reed, had a 68. Both are among several young players who grew up watching Woods dominate golf with 14 majors and 79 wins on the PGA Tour. They did not see him shoot 82.

"Sure, it's odd," Spieth said. "But it's his second tournament in six months. He's really revamping his golf swing and just seems like he needs some more repetitions. From the looks of it, he looks very healthy, looks like nothing was bothering him. So he should be able to get out there and get a lot of practice in. I would look for him to make a strong comeback this year."

Woods played the Phoenix Open for only the fourth time, and the first time since 2001. He still managed to generate plenty of memories. There was the hole-in-one on the 16th hole in 1997, the fans moving a 1,000-pound boulder for him in 1999, a teenager throwing an orange across the green as he was putting in 2001.

And now an 82. The support remained strong, but the message changed. What began on Thursday as "Welcome back," turned into, "Thanks for coming." □

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GOLD Season
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3 BEDRM OV \$17k

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24/7

Sports Science:

Patriots May Have Science on Their Side, After All

JAMES GLANZ

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Thomas Healy does not have tickets to the Super Bowl, but he plans to fly to Phoenix with something that is even harder to come by than seats at Sunday's game: the first detailed, experimental data on how atmospheric conditions might have reduced the air pressure in footballs used by the New England Patriots in their victory over the Indianapolis Colts nearly two weeks ago.

Those footballs, which the NFL has said were deflated to pressures below league standards, have created a national metabowl whose outcome is seemingly as important as who wins Sunday. The question driving the public dialogue is whether the Patriots tampered with the balls to make them easier to handle, or whether simply moving them from the warmth of a locker room to the chill and dampness of the field could account for the deflation.

The Patriots have absorbed a beating in that larger contest, with many scientists concluding that only the surreptitious hiss of air being released from the balls could explain the difference. But now the Patriots have started to rally, and in a big way. Healy, who provided The New York Times with an advance copy of his technical paper on the experiments, concluded that most or all of the deflation could be explained by those environmental effects.

"This analysis looks solid to me," said Max Tegmark, a professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who

reviewed the paper at The Times' request. "To me, their measurements mean that there's no evidence of foul play."

Other evidence is also turning the Patriots' way. In a usually obscure profession that has received extraordinary attention during the controversy, some academic and research physicists now concede that they made a crucial error in their initial calcu-

at 50 degrees (the approximate temperature on the field in the Colts game). In the experiment, the deflation of the footballs was close to the larger, correctly calculated value. When Healy moistened the balls to mimic the effects of the rainy weather that day, the pressure dropped even further, close to the deflation of 2 pounds per square inch that the NFL is believed to

As the Super Bowl approaches, physicists and engineers at some of the nation's most prestigious research institutions have been put into an unaccustomed spotlight as they try to resolve the issue. The Times reported Tuesday that NFL investigators had contacted the Columbia physics department for help with "matters relating to gas physics and environmental impacts on in-

rounding pressure of the atmosphere must be considered.

This roughly doubles how much a dip in temperature can lower the pressure. During a phone conversation, even Tegmark, the MIT professor, initially used the lower value until recognizing the mistake. "I stand corrected," he said, adding, "It's pretty funny that the ideal gas law is making headlines."

Timothy Gay, an experimental physicist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who once wrote a book called "The Physics of Football," with a foreword by Bill Belichick, the Patriots' coach, said there was no doubt that a slightly deflated ball would be easier to grip. But he said his own calculations and Healy's paper, a few details of which had previously leaked out, persuaded him that the weather could account for the pressure drop.

Belichick and Tom Brady have denied tampering with a football, but Belichick may have undermined his case with a confusing appeal to scientific principles in a news conference on Saturday. "Belichick's press conference raised exactly the correct issues, inarticulate as it was," Gay said.

Healy, who is from the Boston area, conceded he would be rooting for the Patriots - whether he gets tickets or not - but said engineers who were not Patriots fans had helped with the experiments. He said his interest was just in the science.

"It's bringing science to a really public light, especially when everybody is getting interested in the Super Bowl," Healy said. □



Heather Wireman laces up an official game ball for NFL football's Super Bowl XLIX at the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. in Ada, Ohio, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. The New England Patriots face the Seattle Seahawks for the NFL championship on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

(AP Photo/Rick Osentoski)

lations, using an equation called the ideal gas law. When that error is corrected, the amount of deflation predicted in moving from room temperature to a 50-degree field is roughly doubled. Healy, a graduate student in mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, went further: He measured the pressure drop in 12 footballs when they were moved from a room at 75 degrees to one

have found. Still, several loose ends ensure that the controversy is not close to finished. If the Colts' footballs were properly inflated, as they reportedly were, it might indicate they were handled differently or inflated more fully to start with. If it turns out that both sets of balls were inflated and handled similarly, the NFL is back to the likelihood that there was tampering by the Patriots.

flated footballs." When the football controversy arose, a number of physicists cited the ideal gas law, which many of them taught in introductory courses. But applying the equation to real situations can be surprisingly deceptive. When a gauge indicates that the ball contains 12.5 psi - the minimum allowed by the NFL - the actual pressure is more than twice that amount because the sur-

Katy Perry says halftime performance will make you 'Roar'

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY

AP Entertainment Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Katy Perry says her American football championship Super Bowl halftime performance will make you "Roar" — with animals.

The singer told reporters at a press conference Thursday that her performance Sunday will include "a lion and sharks." "It's going to be wild out there," Perry teased. Perry, 30, said she feels blessed to perform on the Super Bowl stage "at such a young age." She said she enjoyed past Super Bowl performances from Beyoncé and Madonna, and what she adds "is some lightheartedness." Lenny Kravitz will join the pop star at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Arizona. Perry said her performance will also include an "old school" female singer who she declined to identify but said would be instantly familiar from the get-go.



Katy Perry poses with a football at a halftime news conference for NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game in Phoenix.

(AP Photo/Morry Gash)

"When you hear the first ring of the chord, I think jaws will drop and faces will melt," she said.

She said the audience can expect to hear two of her hits, "Roar" and "Firework." Her performance would be

a visual feast in the tradition of Madonna and will celebrate "female empowerment," she said.

Perry said one element of the show is the unfurling of a giant screen that will go on the field for visual effects, and she'll also change her outfit several times. She said the logistics of the performance will be difficult, and she plans to sing through much of it. "A lot of it will be live," she said. Perry, who's in the midst of a world tour, said she's been closely involved in planning the extravaganza. "There is not a diamond on the shoe that has not gone past my eyes," she said. "I feel that in some ways it's a spiritual experience for me," she said. "I just hope that at the end of the day, over 100 million people are all smiling in unison," Perry said. Perry was playful with reporters, indulging one who wanted to take a selfie photo with her and shouting at a pair of puppets brought by a Mexican television crew. □

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Kim Kardashian, other celebrities appear in Super Bowl ads

MAE ANDERSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Along with puppies and babies, celebrities are a Super Bowl advertising staple. And this year is no exception.

Using stars is a surefire way to grab attention during advertising's most competitive night, when a crowded field of 40-plus marketers vie for the attention of the more than 110 million viewers expected to tune in to the Super Bowl on Sunday.

Advertisers use celebrities to "help insure the success of their creative investment," said Devra Prywes, vice president of marketing for research firm Unruly. But it doesn't always work. In order for an ad to go viral, it needs to connect emotionally or give the audience multiple reasons to share, Prywes said.

"A celebrity can't save an ad that doesn't do those things, but the right celeb-



This image shows a frame from a Snickers candy bar commercial, based on the Brady Bunch television series and featuring actor Danny Trejo, to be aired during the broadcast of the 2015 Super Bowl NFL football game. Along with puppies and babies, celebrities are a Super Bowl advertising staple.

(AP Photo/Mars)

rity can help amplify it," he said.

This year, advertisers are choosing quirkier celebrities and poking fun at bigger names. For instance, Katie Couric and Bryant Gumbel make fun of their

inability to understand the Internet in 1994 in a BMW ad. And character actors Steve Buscemi and Danny Trejo star in a Snickers spot. Here's a look how brands are using celebrities in this year's Super Bowl ads.

Snickers "The Brady Bunch" In keeping with its 5-year-old "You're Not You When You're Hungry," campaign that shows hungry people resembling humorous celebrities, Snickers 30-second ad recreates the famous Brady Bunch episode in which the oldest daughter, Marcia, gets hit in the nose with a football. Florence Henderson and action movie "Machete" star Danny Trejo also make appearances.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqbomTIWCZ8>

BMW "Newfangled Idea" In order to promote its new all-electric BMW i3 in a 60-second spot, BMW enlisted former "Today" show hosts Couric and Gumbel to recreate a 1994 on-air conversation when they tried to figure out what the @ symbol in an email address meant. "Alison," Cou-

ric says to an off camera producer in the 1994 clip, "can you explain what Internet is?" The ad flashes forward to today, when the duo are in a BMW's i3 similarly confused. "Big ideas take a little getting used to," copy states.

Online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1jwWwJ-Mxc>

T-Mobile "#KimsDataStash" T-Mobile hired Kim Kardashian for a 30-second spoof on public service announcements. It pokes fun at Kardashian's constant online presence. She makes a plea to save people's unused data taken back by wireless carriers. She laments that the data could have been used to see Kardashian's makeup, vacations and outfits. "Please help save the data," she pleads. The ad promotes T-Mobile's service that lets users keep their unused data for a

Aruhiba Cigars, Aruba's only hand rolled cigars!

t's a matter of prestige and quality...

With the purchase of \$20 + up, present this ad and receive a FREE Aruhiba Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled. Winner of the best of Aruba. The best local product. Cigars in Tubes Arubian design.



For a group or private tour, call 586-7833 / 593-6177 or send them an email at aruhibacigars@gmail.com www.aruhibacigars.com

How to Leave a Mark



DAVID BROOKS
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The big debate during the 20th century was about the relationship between the market and the state. Both those institutions are now tarnished. The market is prone to devastating crashes and seems to be producing widening inequality. Government is gridlocked, sclerotic or captured by special interests. Government is an ever more rigid and ineffective tool to address market failures.

So over the past generation many of the most talented people on earth have tried to transform capitalism itself, to use the market to solve social problems. These are people with opposable minds: part profit-oriented and part purpose-oriented. They've created organizations that look a little like a business, a little like a social-service provider and a little like a charity - or some mixture of the three.

Hippy companies like Ben & Jerry's ice cream led the first wave in this sector, but now you've got a burgeoning array of social-capitalist tools to address problems - ranging from B Corporations like Warby Parker (which gives free glasses to the poor) to social impact bonds. (For example, a private investor raises money to finance a program to reduce recidivism. If the program works and the government saves money because there are fewer prisoners to house, then the government pays back the investor, with a profit.)

Impact investing is probably the most promising of these tools. Impact investing is not socially responsible investing. Socially responsible investing means avoiding certain companies, like tobacco growers. Impact investors seek out companies that are intentionally designed both to make a profit and provide a measurable and accountable social good. Impact funds are frequently willing to accept lower financial returns for the sake of doing good - say a 7 percent annual return compared with an 11 percent return. But some impact investors are seeking to deliver market-rate returns.

Brian Trelstad, of Bridges Ventures, has looked at companies in early autism intervention, paid for by Medicaid, that can improve long-term educational outcomes while reducing spending on special education; affordable after-school enrichment programs that bring extra edu-

cation services to charter school students; and energy efficiency companies that serve people in public housing, which saves long term heating costs.

When impact funds came on the scene, seven or so years ago, there was the usual overhype. A 2010 report by the Rockefeller Foundation and JPMorgan projected that impact investing could see new capital inflows of up to \$1 trillion by 2020. That's looking unlikely given that right now roughly something like only \$40 billion has been invested through these funds.

There are more roadblocks than anticipated. It's hard to find a reliable way to measure the social impact of these dual-purpose companies. Impact investors have also had trouble finding scalable deals to invest in. It costs as much to do due diligence on a \$250 million deal as on a \$25 million deal, so many firms would rather skip the small stuff.

The hype created skepticism and a backlash. But impact investing is now entering the mainstream. An older generation used their (rigorous) business mind in one setting and then their (often sloppy) charity mind in another. Today more people want to blend these minds. Typically a big client, or a young heir, will go to his or her investments adviser and say, "I want some socially useful investments in my portfolio." If the adviser has nothing on offer, the client leaves the firm.

New impact funds are being born. In a low-interest-rate era, they can offer comparable returns. The Obama administration has been aggressively supportive. Social stock exchanges are being founded. The big players like Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse are now in the field.

I recently sat in a beautiful New York meeting room with a nicely and formally dressed banker, Andy Sieg, as he discussed the impact fund he's helping to create at Merrill Lynch. He said his associates, especially his young associates, were extremely eager to work on the project. People are eager to have this kind of impact.

Impact investing is not going to replace government or be a panacea, but it's one of a number of new tools to address social problems. If you want to leave a mark on the world but are unsure of how to do it, I'd say take a look. If you're a high-net-worth individual (a rich person), ask your adviser to get you involved. If you're young and searching, get some finance and operational skills and then find a way to get involved in a socially useful investment proposition. If you've got a business mind, there are huge opportunities to build the infrastructure (creating measuring systems, connecting investors with deals).

Someday government will get unstuck, with new programs to address this new era. But there's no prospect of that happening soon. Right now social capitalism is a more creative and dynamic place to spend a life.



We Dodged Icy Doom. Let's Gripe



FRANK BRUNI
© 2015 New York Times

"You can't be a Monday morning quarterback on something like the weather," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said right after the snow.

Oh really? On Tuesday morning we hurled second guesses and grievances the way Tom Brady tosses an inadequately inflated football.

By "we" I mean not just us New Yorkers, who were promised the icy end of the world and then forced to make do with something less dramatic, but also all of those who gazed upon the city, state and region and gleefully joined a chorus of instant complaint.

We grilled de Blasio, wondering if he might be using an emergency - and his role as responder in chief - to shake off that nastiness with the police and turn the page.

We put New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on the hot seat, noting that as long as he was gasping at the possibility of a record-breaking blizzard, he didn't have to deal with the actuality of jaw-dropping corruption on his watch.

And we marveled that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was even present in New Jersey. He spent months gallivanting around the country collecting IOUs for a presidential campaign, then

thundered home just in time to close roads and prophesy disaster? What a storm queen.

That's one perspective, and a sizable share of the cynicism is warranted. These guys are showboats who always preen and play the angles. It's called getting elected.

But before we reflexively shovel too much censure on them, let's get a few things straight.

None of them hallucinated those forecasts of 2 feet (or more) of snow, nor did they cherry-pick apocalyptic ones. Meteorologists and broadcasters aplenty tripped over their adjectives to describe the frigid horrors in wait for residents of the northeastern United States.

Our politicians heard what we heard, and the same tidings that had us picking grocery-store shelves clean and standing in epic checkout lines had them cordoning off bridges and tunnels. Everyone braced for the worst, which is a whole lot smarter than hoping for the best.

"All signs were that this was going to be very bad," Juliette Kayyem, a former assistant secretary of homeland security, told John Berman and Kate Bolduan on CNN, adding that for de Blasio not to take many or most of the steps that he did "would have been complete negligence."

And it was indeed a bad storm. In New England, people did get several feet of snow. They also got that much in areas of Long Island that aren't all that far from the New York City border, as the mayor noted at his news conference Tuesday.

But from the howls of inconvenience and accusations of overreaction in the city itself, you would have thought that Central Park's snowfall (almost 10 inches) was everybody's. Untrue. In matters meteorological as in others, Manhattan is solipsism central.

Still, there are questions to be fairly asked. Was it really necessary, at 11 p.m. Monday, to take the extraordinary step of shutting

down the subways? Especially when it turned out that some trains were still running, empty, as a way of maintaining the system? That was Cuomo's call, and it could have waited, if indeed it ever had to be made. Friends who've lived through Moscow's brutal winters tell me that its mass transit never lets up. And while Russia's people are harder, their vehicles are not.

To varying degrees, Cuomo, de Blasio, Christie and other politicians overreacted, at least slightly, but who's to blame? They've seen leaders past - including the New York mayors John Lindsay in 1969, Michael Bloomberg in 2010 and de Blasio himself just a year ago - endure or be undone by charges of insufficient girding for snow.

And they know that these days, thanks to Twitter and the like, the verdict will be especially hasty and the jury unusually large and loud. TV networks, pressed for money and ratings, will pay rapt attention, because weather is an easy news story to cover: straightforward, theatrical. The correspondents get to wear their ski-chalet best and to roar over the wind's whisper.

In a more nuanced environment, the politicians in the snow's path could have charted a better midcourse between readiness and run-for-cover alarm. They could have trusted us to understand that their talents don't include soothsaying and that their plans will never be precisely right. But that's not the climate we live in. No, ours is so gripe-happy that not long after dawn Tuesday, on the Business Insider website, Henry Blodget reacted to the transportation shutdown with this sweeping judgment: "New York has become a nanny state."

Perhaps. But imagine if all the snow predicted had arrived and scores of motorists were stranded. We'd be asking those nannies why they'd abandoned us, and we'd be looking for their replacements.

Super Mistakes:

In Big Game, 4th Down Is No Time For Caution

DAVID LEONHARDT

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Tom Landry made the mistake in two Super Bowls. The longtime Buffalo Bills coach Marv Levy made it in an excruciating loss to the New York Giants in 1991. Mike Tomlin, Mike Martz and Lovie Smith have all done it, too. Perhaps most surprisingly, Bill Belichick has done it multiple times in his Super Bowl appearances.

Each of these coaches has hurt his team's chance of winning an NFL title by being too eager to punt in the biggest football game of all:

damaging ones. It's also helpful to look back at the decades before 2000 (when the game was somewhat different, with less offense) for other mistakes.

The analysis suggests that about 30 percent of all fourth-down decisions in the last 15 Super Bowls have been problematic. Despite Belichick's reputation for being aggressive on fourth down, his error rate is nearly identical to the average. On five occasions in the New England Patriots' last five Super Bowls, he has ordered a dubious punt on fourth-

excessive caution, as Belichick did after going for a first down in his own territory late in a 2009 regular-season game against the Indianapolis Colts.

But history and statistics suggest that exercising caution is often the worse move. NFL offenses convert fourth-and-1 almost 70 percent of the time. Even fourth-and-4 has a success rate of about 55 percent, according to Brian Burke, of the website Advanced Football Analytics, which conducted this analysis. Forgoing those odds of keeping the ball - in

ics. The Bears never led in the second half, although they remained within one score of the Colts until the game's final few minutes.

The second- and third-worst decisions were also fourth-and-1 punts from near midfield. The 2001 St. Louis Rams, despite having an offense so powerful that it was nicknamed the Greatest Show on Turf, opted not to go for it in the second quarter when trailing the underdog Patriots by 4 points. And the 2010 Pittsburgh Steelers, another team with a strong offense, punted to the Packers mid-

years before 2000 are also full of such examples. In 1991, Levy and the Bills punted on fourth-and-1 from around midfield on their opening drive, then watched the Giants march for a field goal; the Bills lost the game, 20-19, on Scott Norwood's missed field goal as time expired. Landry and the Dallas Cowboys, in their two Super Bowl losses to the Steelers in the 1970s, punted a total of six times when they arguably should not have.

Even the so-called Greatest Game Ever Played, the 1958 championship between the Giants and the Colts, was decided in part by fourth-down caution. The Giants' final two possessions - one in the first overtime in NFL history - ended with punts on fourth-and-1. After each, Johnny Unitas led the Colts on scoring drives.

These days, when coaches are asked to explain their fourth-down decisions, some emphasize that they are coaching individual players, with their own strengths and weaknesses. On the other hand, the 4th Down Bot - an application developed by The New York Times to analyze fourth-down decisions - is based on league averages. After a Buffalo reporter asked Doug Marrone, then the Bills' coach, about the Bot this season, he replied that "people on the outside looking in" often do not "truly understand what the data is."

A more sophisticated model would indeed include data on individual teams and players. But the conclusions would usually be the same. It's not as if coaches who have strong offenses or who face weak defenses are notably more aggressive.

The team that may now have the best claim on aggressiveness - or rationality - is the Baltimore Ravens. They went for it on fourth down four times during their two playoff games this season - succeeding every time - and once during their 2013 Super Bowl win over the San Francisco 49ers.

Three of the Ravens' assistant coaches have since decamped to Denver, including Gary Kubiak, who will be the Broncos' coach next year. It will be worth watching whether they take their boldness with them. □



The Chicago Bears made one of the worst calls on a Super Bowl fourth and 1 when Brad Maynard punted against the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLI in Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla., Feb. 4, 2007. In the biggest game of all, coaches have frequently made decisions that damaged their teams' chances to win a championship.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

an example of the excessive caution among coaches that causes them to turn the ball over voluntarily - or settle for a field goal - instead of trusting their players to convert a fourth-and-short.

Were it not for such restraint by Green Bay Packers coach Mike McCarthy in the NFC championship game this year, fans might now be preparing for a Packers-Patriots Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl itself is no different. An analysis of every fourth-down decision in the Super Bowl since 2000 allows the ranking of the most

and-3 or shorter.

How can we be so confident that coaches - highly paid experts, after all, performing on a public stage with big incentives to win - are making mistakes?

The shortest explanation revolves around a football cliché: Turnovers can kill a team. A punt is a voluntary turnover. Coaches punt nonetheless because they think the change in field position is more valuable than the chance to keep the ball. They also know they are more likely to face postgame criticism for a failed risk than for

exchange for 40 or so yards of field position - is frequently a bad deal.

The three worst punting decisions in the last 15 Super Bowls all came from teams that went on to lose the game. The worst was by the 2006 Chicago Bears, coached by Smith, who were trailing the Colts by just 2 points with about four minutes left in the first half when they punted on fourth-and-1 from their own 45. The decision reduced Chicago's odds of winning to 41 percent, from 45 percent, according to Advanced Football Analyt-

way through the first quarter. That last decision makes for a tidy allegory about the downside of caution. The punt by Jeremy Kapinos went into the end zone, giving the Packers the ball at their 20. Green Bay then drove 80 yards in nine plays to go ahead 7-0 - a demonstration of why, with today's high-powered NFL offenses, having the ball usually matters more than where a team starts with it.

Obviously, no one can know what would have happened if the Steelers had instead tried for the first down. The